

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Cuban leader recounts
revolutionary war

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Irish fighters stand up to right-wing assaults

Crisis of British rule sharpens in N. Ireland

BY CHRIS MORRIS
AND JIM SPAUL

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The crisis of British rule in the six counties of Northern Ireland intensified as nationalists staunchly resisted rightist marches through their streets and the intimidation of their communities. Graphic images of complicity of British armed forces with the rightist street gangs, headed by Unionist politicians, were beamed by the media all over the world.

Working people in Britain, many for the first time, began to see the real face of anti-Catholic violence and discrimination.

On Friday night July 12 in Derry, the police fired 1,000 plastic bullets — six-inch-long and one-inch-wide batons that can be fatal — at Catholic protesters, according to the *Irish News*, injuring 200.

The following morning one of the protesters, Dermot McShane, was killed when a British army vehicle drove over him. That evening 10,000 marched, many carrying black flags, in protest to Derry city center, where Sinn Féin leader Martin McGuinness charged the British Army with murder.

More than 100 Catholic families had been forced out of their homes in Belfast by the rightist violence as of mid-July. Ursula Slavin was one of the last Catholics to leave Cliftonpark Avenue. "One of my neighbors had to run for her life with her children in arms. Her house went up in flames behind her as she ran," she said. "They were shoot-

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RUC cop attacks protesters trying to block rightist march through their street in Belfast

Socialists: UK troops out of Ireland! Stop deportation of Irish activists!

The following statement was issued July 17 by James Harris and Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president.

Events the past week in the six counties of Northern Ireland demonstratively show why the withdrawal British troops from the north, the disbanding of the Royal Ulster

Constabulary (RUC), the unification of Ireland, and self-determination for the Irish people must be carried out immediately.

The violence against working people and freedom fighters in the north is a result of 27 years of direct British military occupation of the six counties of Northern Ireland, and decades of the partition and oppression

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Demonstrations in California defend affirmative action, immigrant rights

BY CAROLE LESNICK
AND GALE SHANGOLD

LOS ANGELES — Chanting "Defend affirmative action! Down with CCRI!" about 200 people gathered July 12 in Downtown Los Angeles with La Marcha for a spirited march to the Los Angeles City Hall. La Marcha is a group of young activists who

started walking from Sacramento, California, on June 3 and arrived in the Los Angeles area on July 10. Their destination is San Diego. According to Dario Gutiérrez, a marcher and student at San Diego State University, La Marcha is walking this long distance to defend and educate state-wide about the need to support affirmative action.

Opponents of affirmative action, from Governor Pete Wilson to the State Board of University Regents, are proposing a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November called the California Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI), now known as Proposition 209. This would severely limit the implementation of affirmative action in California on the job and in the schools.

"CCRI is a racist initiative. We won't tolerate it," Gutiérrez said. "In San Diego we'll educate people, register them to vote and have them pledge 'No.' We'll be involved in big protests on August 12 and 13," coinciding with the Republican Party convention there.

For many, like 18-year-old Cynthia, this was not their first march. "I'm here to support the march against CCRI. I marched against Proposition 187 last year," she said, referring to the anti-immigrant referendum that passed in November 1994.

The rally drew support from campus and community groups who gave their greetings and support. A group of four people drove 25 miles from Long Beach to participate. High school student Jorge Arellana expressed his support for the march. "As a student I realize it takes more than one group of people to make an impact on the community. We have to unite to make a bigger im-

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NATO forces threaten to step up intervention in Yugoslavia

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Washington and its NATO rivals in Paris, Bonn, and London are probing to step up their intervention in Yugoslavia. The so-called international war crimes tribunal issued worldwide arrest warrants July 11 for chauvinist Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic. "All states will henceforth be legally obliged to arrest the accused if they come within their jurisdiction," declared a press communiqué from the imperialist-crafted tribunal.

Robert Frowick, the U.S. official overseeing the September 14 elections in Bosnia, said the nationalist Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) would be barred from the race unless Karadzic resigned from his political activity and position as head of the party by July 19. "Things must be straightened out by that date," Frowick told a news conference in Sarajevo on July 15.

Karadzic has said he will not run in the elections, but he was recently re-elected head of the SDS. Richard Holbrooke, a Wall Street banker and former U.S. diplomat who helped push through the Dayton "peace" agreement last fall, met with Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic July 17 to twist his arm to oust Karadzic. Holbrooke said his four-hour meeting with Milosevic was "inconclusive and in progress." Washington has threatened to reimpose economic

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Marchers in Puerto Rico say: 'We are a nation'

BY AMANDA ULMAN
AND RUTH MACHADO

FAJARDO, Puerto Rico — Defying rain and flash flood warnings, more than 200,000 people converged on this small town to attend one of four demonstrations set to coincide with the annual convention of the National Governors Association (NGA).

"We came to defend our nation," explained Ocasio Morales, a social worker from Juncos.

"We are Puerto Rican, of one nationality," Lope de Ponce affirmed. They were among between 80,000 and 100,000 participants at "La Nación en Marcha" (The Nation Marching) demonstration, called as a show of force in opposition to Puerto Rico's ruling Governor Pedro Rosselló's stance in support of statehood for Puerto Rico. Last November Rosselló stated to the press that Puerto Rico "is not and has never been a nation." Many at the march cited this and stated they were there to prove the opposite.

The Nación En Marcha was organized by the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), as well as many pro-independence forces. The PPD, one of the major capitalist parties on the island, supports the current status of Puerto Rico as a U.S. commonwealth. While many at the march supported independence, organizers of the event discouraged signs and

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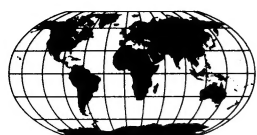
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Palestinian youth fight Israeli occupation in West Bank

Dozens of Palestinian youth in the West Bank city of Hebron threw rocks and a pipe bomb at Israeli soldiers July 10. The clash occurred hours after Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu announced that Israel would never divide Jerusalem and refused to withdraw troops from Hebron. The prime minister was speaking to the U.S. Congress, which gave a standing ovation for his comments.

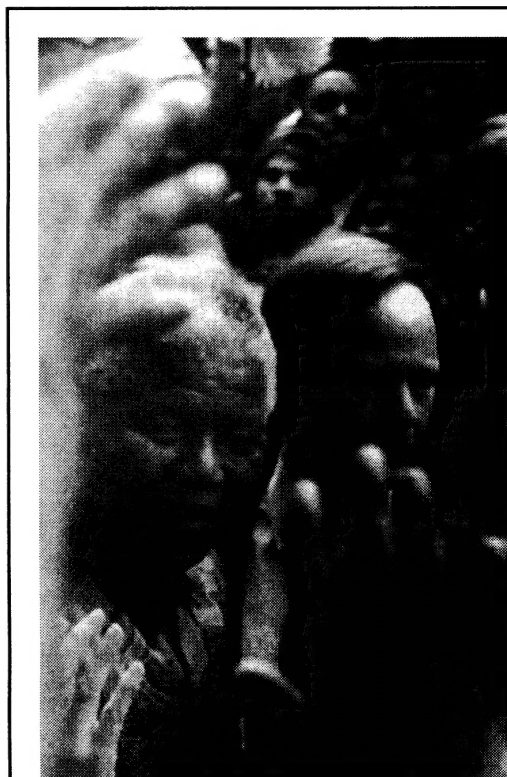
The Israeli government has occupied Jerusalem since the 1967 war, and the area is one of the points put forward by the Palestinian Liberation Organization as part of the "land for peace" effort. Netanyahu also said that he will expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and ruled out allowing a Palestinian state. Tel Aviv has been building up Jewish neighborhoods around east Jerusalem, preventing Palestinians from building on their own property, constructing roads between settlements and Jerusalem, and revoking Arabs' Jerusalem residency cards.

The *Washington Post* called the recent clashes "reminiscent of the days of the Palestinian *intifada*," or uprising, in the late 1980s. "There will be a new uprising in Hebron," said Ali Qawasmi, a Palestinian legislator from Hebron. "We don't want violence, but with their actions, the Israelis will be obliging the people to refuse what they are doing to us."

German gov't pushes cutbacks

The German parliament voted in Bonn July 11 to raise the retirement age necessary for workers in Germany to receive full pensions. The day before, the German cabinet approved cutting the 1997 budget 2.5 percent. The plan includes reducing unemployment benefits and postponing an increase of benefits for workers with children, cutting sick pay, slashing health-care benefits, and eroding job security.

Finance minister Theo Waigel said the moves are necessary to bring Germany's deficit down below the ceiling of 3 percent of its gross national product set by the European Union. In mid-June 350,000 workers had marched in Bonn in a national pro-



South African president Nelson Mandela walked July 12 through Brixton in London, one of Britain's largest Black communities. Mandela called on the British government to help destroy the legacy of apartheid by increasing trade and investment in South Africa. "Racism is a blight on the human conscience," he told Parliament.

test against the government's austerity drive.

EU continues British beef ban

The highest court of the European Union ruled July 12 that it was within its rights to ban worldwide sales of British beef. The ban was imposed March 27 on grounds that the meat could be contaminated with "mad cow disease." The decision rules out the immediate end to the beef ban, despite a June vote by the EU to gradually lift it. Some members of the British Parliament demanded that London retaliate and stall the additions of new members to the EU from Eastern Eu-

rope.

Cease-fire ends in Chechnya

Less than a week after the reelection of Russian president Boris Yeltsin, Russian forces resumed pounding villages in Chechnya. Up to 38 civilians were reported killed and more than 60 wounded in four days of fighting that ended the cease-fire agreements of May 28 and June 10. The Russian forces have used air and artillery attacks and rocket launchers against the Chechens. Retired Gen. Alexander Lebed, Yeltsin's new national security chief, endorsed the offensive, saying that Chechnya must remain within Russia and that the Russian army will "fight to the victory."

The fighting began after a bomb went off in Moscow — which no organization claimed responsibility for — and a senior Russian general was killed by a land mine in Chechnya. In Chechnya, a Russian commander told the Interfax news agency that the Chechen fighters "would be eliminated," and that "ruthless moves must be made against those bastards." Chechen fighters retaliated with an attack on a Russian military unit July 12. More than 30,000 people, mostly civilians, have died since Yeltsin sent troops to Chechnya to smash its declaration of independence 19 months ago.

Turkish gov't squeaks into office

Turkey's parliament endorsed Necmettin Erbakan, leader the conservative Welfare Party, for prime minister by a close vote of 278 to 265 on July 8. Erbakan formed a coalition agreement with former prime minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party. Erbakan has since dropped his campaign promises to pull Turkey out of NATO and to create an Islamic United Nations. Instead, he reaffirmed Turkey's status as a "democratic, secular and social state of law."

U.S. officials told Erbakan that Washington is willing to work with his government as long as U.S. military interests in the region aren't threatened. Turkey's parliament is set to vote on renewing the mandate of "Operation Provide Comfort II" — a U.S.-British-French air force that patrols northern Iraq from bases in southern Turkey — later in July.

Kenyan cops attack strikers

Police attacked hundreds of striking city employees and bystanders, including women and children, with clubs on July 11 in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Hundreds of the 17,000 striking workers were at the demonstration on the second day of the strike. The workers blocked the streets with stones, guard rails, and overturned kiosks.

The city employees were demonstrating

at city hall in Nairobi demanding \$8 million in back pay. The back pay has accumulated over five years following a labor settlement that increased city worker's salaries.

Tamil attacks Sri Lanka officials

A member of the independence group Tamil Tigers exploded a suicide bomb at a Sri Lankan government minister's motorcade in the city of Jaffna July 5, killing herself and 21 others, including a senior army commander. It was the first major attack by the Tamil Tigers on the Jaffna peninsula since the government captured it seven months ago.

The Tamil Tigers have been fighting since 1983 for a separate homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka. The Tamils have been discriminated against in education and jobs. Although the government forces have controlled the city of Jaffna since last December, and announced it had driven the Tamils off the Jaffna peninsula, the resistance continues almost daily.

Guatemalan peasants occupy embassy demanding housing

Almost 1,000 peasants in Guatemala peacefully occupied the Costa Rican embassy July 12 to put pressure on the government of Alvaro Arzú in their demands for housing. A spokesperson of the group said that they targeted that embassy as president Arzú was in San José, capital of Costa Rica, attending a meeting of heads of state from Central America and Chile.

"We are asking the intervention" of the embassy representatives to have the government listen to the peasants, who live around the cliffs of the metropolitan area, about their demands for housing, added the spokesperson. They are also asking for the legalization of the lands they have occupied in the metropolitan area. "We want the government to meet our demands because people are starving and freezing to death around the cliffs," said the spokesperson after he asked, "Where is the peace" that Arzú is talking about.

Wall Street takes a tumble

The Dow Jones industrial stock average plunged nearly 200 points between July 4 and July 12, sending Wall Street into a frenzy. As of July 12, the market had not recovered and was down 5 percent from its record closing high of 5,778 achieved in late May. The latest tumble came after reports by technology giants Motorola and Hewlett-Packard of slowing growth and increasing price competition.

"Everybody is panicking," one investment boss told the *Wall Street Journal*. "We are watching the lemmings fly out the window." According to the London *Financial Times*, investment officials "point out that the pattern of stock market movements over the past year is potentially even more ominous than in the run-up to the 1987 stock market crash."

—MEGAN ARNEY

THE MILITANT

British troops out of Ireland!

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Crisis of UK rule sharpens in N. Ireland

Continued from front page
ing after people as they ran."

At a protest on the Falls Road here July 14, one of the signs read, "1996-1969 Nothing has Changed." In 1969 resistance to pogroms like these led to the British Army being sent to Northern Ireland, beginning 27 years of direct occupation.

The nationalist demonstration, which marched through West Belfast, was in protest to the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) police decision to allow Orange Order marches through Catholic areas July 12. The action grew along the route as hundreds of bystanders joined it, eventually linking up with another march from the Andersonstown district of the city. Several other such protests took place throughout Northern Ireland.

Rightists launch anti-Catholic attacks

The RUC decision, endorsed by the British government, had come after a week-long standoff between the loyalist (pro-British) Orange Order marchers and the police. During this time the rightists attacked the cops and carried out anti-Catholic riots, burning homes and cars. Catholics throughout Northern Ireland were subjected to a virtual blockade, with many roads and rail routes as well as telephone lines cut off by loyalists, and hundreds of Catholic homes being assaulted. On July 7 Michael McGoldrick, a Catholic taxi driver in Lurgan, was shot dead.

The two flash points were the Orange Order marches down the Garvaghy Road in Portadown and Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast. After residents protested, the courts and police had agreed the Loyalist marches should be rerouted. They are just two of 3,000 such marches by the rightist groups.

Ostensibly called to celebrate the Battle of the Boyne 300 years ago, the loyalist actions are aimed at preserving the caste-type system through which Protestants are treated preferentially to Catholics. This system is the keystone of British rule.

Increasingly these marches have also celebrated murders of Catholics by loyalist gangs. At the height of the standoff between the loyalists and the police, the marchers were joined by David Trimble and Ian Paisley, the two central Unionist politicians in Northern Ireland.

The decision to reverse the previous agreement to reroute the marches has thrown the London government's goals of stabilizing its continued rule of this part of Ireland into crisis and has provoked a public division with the Dublin government.

With Prime Minister John Major's government already deeply unpopular in Britain, its ability to use its stance on Ireland to claim credibility has suffered a major blow. Night after night TV viewers watched the scenes of the RUC and loyalist gangs clubbing and beating Catholics with not a blink from Major.

When the RUC then moved to clear the

route for the Orange Order marchers down Garvaghy Road, the British Army soldiers cleared away the barricades erected by the Catholic residents. London announced July 10 it was sending an additional 1,000 troops to Northern Ireland, bringing the total to 18,500, the most since 1982. A few days later the government said it was pulling 500 soldiers back out again.

Earlier in July, the British government drew protests for its decision to send the Army Parachute Regiment back to Ireland. That unit was responsible for the 1972 massacre of 13 nationalist demonstrators in Derry in what became known as Bloody Sunday, as well as other abuses.

'We are not second-class citizens'

Signs held by the protesters here in Belfast July 14 included, "Stand up for nationalists against Orange bigotry," "End the nationalist nightmare in the six counties," referring to the part of Ireland ruled by Britain, "Disband the RUC," "We are not second-class citizens," and "Reroute sectarian marches."

Interviewed at the Belfast demonstration, Pat McCaffery of Springfield Road Colin Residents' Association said, "There are two or three marches a year through our road. When we have held sit-down protests, the RUC have beat and battered us off the road. They have kicked and punched women and children."

This week, he added, "we organized 24-hour shifts to protect the area. Loyalists threw petrol bombs to set light to our houses. When we ran to warn people, the RUC fired baton rounds and drove jeeps at us to try to stop us."

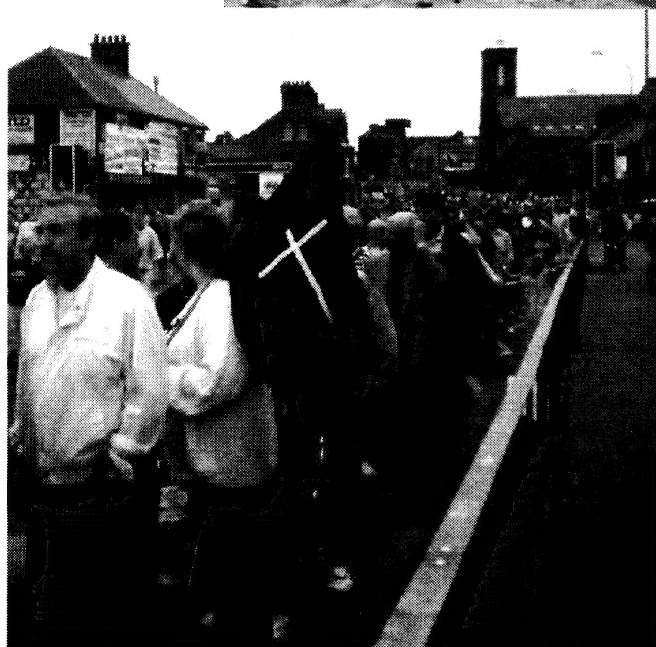
The protests and call by Catholic residents for the re-routing of the Orange Order marches is backed by a new level of confidence. *An Phoblacht*, the paper that supports Sinn Fein, reported that in the past many would take a holiday away from home over the July 12 weekend; even *An Phoblacht* didn't print that week. Now attitudes are changing and Catholics are no longer prepared to stand aside. Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams has made clear their call is not for the banning of the Orange marches, but for their re-routing so that they do not march provocatively through the Catholic areas.

Speaking to the Belfast demonstration Adams said, "If anyone ever wanted a reason why the IRA [Irish Republican Army] said it will not surrender its weapons then look back on what has happened in the past week." He pointed out "there is nothing more risky than being a Catholic in the six counties."

"There can be no preconditions," Adams continued. "Let no one talk about democracy down the barrel of a plastic bullet gun or armored car." Referring to Sinn Fein's continued exclusion from the multiparty talks he said, "Be sure of this: David Trimble

and Ian Paisley orchestrate a campaign of intimidation for four or five days. And then both go into talks as if they had no responsibility for what happened. While we are locked out."

The nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party withdrew its representatives



Militant/Chris Morris

from the Northern Ireland Forum in protest at the RUC decision not to reroute the Orange marches. The Forum was set up by London following elections at the end of May.

Several of the SDLP's local representatives were interviewed on TV saying they felt the ground had been taken from them by the British government and RUC. Sinn Fein has not participated in the Forum from the outset, in protest at their exclusion from the multi-party talks.

John Bruton, Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of the Dublin government, criticized the British government, saying, "I believe that the peace process depends on politicians who support democracy all the time, not on an a-la-carte basis, who support nonviolence all the time, not just when it suits them taking their courage in their hands and proceeding to make agreements."

Even the British Labour Party, which has a totally bipartisan policy with the Tories toward Ireland, tried to distance themselves



Militant/Chris Morris

Left, demonstrators march on the Falls Road in protest of the allowance of the Orange Order to march through Catholic areas in Northern Ireland. Above, a ransacked automobile left abandoned on Lower Ormeau Road, one of the sharpest points of the confrontations.

from Major's recent tactics, claiming that they were in favor of an independent body to establish the routes of marches.

Sinn Fein leader Adams said, "I want to say clearly that the peace process lies in absolute ruins, and the responsibility for that and restoring it lies with John Major."

The British prime minister replied, "It is absurd to suggest that the peace process is in ruins unless there are those who wish to ruin it."

McCaffery, from the Springfield Road association, said, "The RUC are the puppets of the Orange Order. Get the Brits out, let us deal with it ourselves, we will work something out. The vote for Sinn Fein went up last time because people want them to be in talks, and it will go up again. They can't have talks without Sinn Fein having their say, the people having their say."

Meanwhile, 70 protesters in London mounted a picket July 12 at Major's residence on Downing Street, demanding the re-routing of the Orange marches. Protesters chanted, "Orange Order — Ku Klux Klan" and "Disband the RUC."

On July 14 a bomb exploded in a hotel in Enniskillen injuring 17 people, the first such bomb explosion for several years in Northern Ireland. The IRA denied responsibility for it. Adams blamed "dirty tricks" and said the timing was "fortuitous" when "the British government and the unionist leadership are clearly in the dock."

In another attempt to shift the ground, police in London arrested six people July 15 under the infamous Prevention of Terrorism Act, alleging they had a bomb factory.

Chris Morris is a member of the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union in Manchester, England. Jim Spaul is a laid off rail worker in London.

U.S. court orders Irish activist to be extradited to Northern Ireland

BY MARY LOU MONTAUK

SAN FRANCISCO — A ruling by a federal judge here July 3 has paved the way for Irish activist Jimmy Smyth to be extradited back to Northern Ireland.

Smyth, 42, was convicted in 1978 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, for the attempted murder of an off-duty prison official. In 1983 he and 37 other political prisoners took part in the biggest jailbreak in the history of the United Kingdom, escaping from the infamous H-Block wing of Maze prison near Belfast.

Smyth subsequently settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he worked as a house painter. He was arrested by the FBI in 1992 and threatened with extradition under the terms of a 1986 treaty between Washington and London.

H-Block escapees Kevin Barry Artt, Terry Kirby, and Pol Brennan were also arrested in San Francisco in 1992. They have all been known since as the H-Block 4.

In 1994, after a three-month hearing, U.S. district judge Barbara Caulfield denied London's request to extradite Smyth and he was released on \$1.5 million bail. The U.S. government, acting for the British government, appealed Caulfield's ruling, which was subsequently overturned by the 9th Cir-

cuit Court. In June the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear Smyth's appeal for asylum and the Justice Department moved rapidly to have his bail revoked.

Some 120 of Smyth's backers packed a courtroom here for the Irish activist's extradition hearing. Karen Snell, Smyth's attorney, filed a petition for a restraining order to halt the extradition proceedings. Judge Charles Legge ruled against the petition and announced the dismissal of a lawsuit Snell filed against Secretary of State Warren Christopher to prevent the extradition on humanitarian grounds. Smyth was ordered to turn himself in later in the day. The papers for his extradition have been forwarded to the Clinton administration.

Supporters of Smyth have been sending faxes and E-mail messages to the White House and the State Department demanding his extradition be halted and he be granted asylum in the United States.

Trials for H-block defendants Artt, Brennan, and Kirby, are scheduled here in November. In the meantime, the three remain under house arrest.

John Fogarty, regional vice present for human rights of the Irish American Unity Conference said in an interview, "We must broaden our appeal for support, going to

unions and other organizations to appeal for support for Jimmy and the three other H-Block defendants."

The Irish American Unity Coalition organized picket lines July 15 and 16 at the federal courthouse here to demand the Clinton administration halt Smyth's extradition.

MARX ENGELS

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Socialists petition to put candidates on ballot

BY MARGRETHE SIEM

NEW YORK — The fight to place the presidential ticket of James Harris and Laura Garza on the ballot in ten states in 1996 got a big boost in July. Petitioning was completed in Minnesota July 14, with more than 6,200 signatures gathered for the Socialist Workers presidential and congressional candidates.

In New York, supporters began a petition drive July 11. More than 60 campaigners petitioned in the streets of New York and Brooklyn the first Sunday of the effort, collecting 2,000 signatures from people who support the right for a working-class ticket to be on the ballot.

Eleanor García, Socialist Workers candidate for the 12th Congressional District here, explained, "We are turning these undemocratic election laws into an advantage. This is an opportunity to reach tens of thousands of youth and working people, and to get out the socialist program, including selling revolutionary literature such as the *Militant* and Pathfinder books. Our goal is to recruit to the Young Socialists and to the Socialist Workers Party."

Youth from Seattle, Des Moines, and as far away as Iceland and France decided to go to New York to volunteer for the campaign after participating in the International Socialist Conference at Oberlin, Ohio. Abby Tilsner is the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 14th Congressional District in New York, and she is leading a team of full time volunteer petitioners. "Lots of young people are interested in being part of the campaign and are signing up to go out with us," she explained while campaigning and selling books along with the international volunteers.

"Our tables had signs focusing on opposition to youth curfews and scapegoating immigrants, and demanding troops out of Ireland. A few people questioned why we opposed the youth curfew, but signed the petition after we explained how what we need is more youth on the streets and fewer cops," she said. "Youth are not the source of crime, but the capitalist system is."

Campaigner Candace Wagner in Washington D.C. reported that the two first days of petitioning in that city had been very successful, thanks to a good show of volunteers.

More volunteers are invited to join the campaign to collect 4,500 signatures there by August 12.

Over the past six weeks supporters of the Socialist Workers 1996 election campaign have collected 6,000 signatures to get Harris and Garza on the ballot in Alabama. The state requires 5,000 signatures, and campaign supporters have taken a goal of 8,500. Campaigners are getting a great response to the working-class issues of a livable minimum wage, defending Black churches, opposition to Washington's war moves around the world, and defense of the Cuban revolution. The socialist petitioners report a lot of interest when they explain that workers in Cuba have fought to increase production as they have maintained the social gains of the revolution.

The Socialist Workers Party has run candidates and been on the ballot for federal, state, and local positions in Alabama for more than 15 years. In several cases campaign supporters have run into people who



Militant/Ruth Machado

SWP candidate Laura Garza, center, campaigning in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

say, "This is for the Socialist Workers Party? I'll sign that. They're for working people."

Volunteers are still needed to help the petition drives in New York, Alabama, and Washington, D.C. Call The Socialist Work-

ers Campaign office in New York for more information: (212) 328-1501.

Nancy Boyasko from Birmingham contributed to this article.

Notes from the SWP campaign trail

PITTSBURGH — Talking to 500 demonstrators against police brutality was the highlight of Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Harris' stay in the Pittsburgh area.

"The issue is not good police or bad police. Police brutality is endemic to the capitalist system and what the rulers use to protect their interests," Harris said at the June 29 action. "It is a national and international problem. We need to link up with those who protested the beatings of immigrant workers in California and those in New York and New Jersey who were outraged at the recent shootings and beatings by cops there."

During his stay, Harris was interviewed by the daily *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, KQV all-news radio, and *In Pittsburgh*, a widely distributed weekly. He also campaigned at a shift change at the USX plant in Clairton, Pennsylvania.

— Edwin Fruit

SALT LAKE CITY — "Defend abortion rights? Why do you campaign for that?" a

worker at Magnesium Corp. of America asked Laura Garza outside the plant, about 50 miles from here, June 26. "Women have a right to control their own bodies," the Socialist Workers Party vice presidential candidate replied. "That sounds right to me," the worker responded. Dozens of workers took literature from socialist campaign supporters during the shift change at the plant where John Langford, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Utah's 3rd District, works.

Before coming to Salt Lake City, Garza spoke to a meeting of 14 people at a community center in Denver. Three young people asked about joining the Young Socialists after the talk.

— Dan Fein

EDEN, North Carolina — Jim Rogers, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of North Carolina, was at the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) Bi-county district picnic here June 22. He works at the Karastan rug

mill. I work at the rug mill too, and I came because I admire him for standing up for workers. Running for governor is the right thing to do.

When I saw others speaking on the platform, including Harvey Gantt, the Democratic Party candidate for U.S. Senate, I pushed through the crowd and urged the union officials to have Jim Rogers announce his candidacy and let people there hear what he had to say. Rogers was the only speaker that day to talk about the arson attacks on the Black churches. In his speech he invited union members there to join with him later that day in Charlotte, North Carolina, at a church rally to protest the burnings.

— Jeffrey Totten

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Kari Sachs, Socialist Workers candidate for the 4th Congressional District in Alabama, received prominent news coverage recently for her views on the burnings of Black churches in the South. WBMG, the local NBC affiliate, conducted an extensive interview with her just prior to the weekly Militant Labor Forum, which the news program also featured. The topic of the forum was "A New Rise in Racism? What's Behind the Recent Church Burnings." The interview with Sachs and the socialist's call for protests was the lead story on the 10 p.m. news here June 21.

— Tim Mailhot

Fund helps to take campaign to fighters

BY LUIS MADRID

NEWARK, New Jersey — Contributions from supporters around the country "put us in good shape to take the campaign to more fighters here and abroad, to get out the so-

cialist program, and build a movement capable of leading workers to power," said national campaign director Greg McCartan. More than half of the areas met or exceeded their goals for the Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign Fund. Contributions exceeded \$80,000.

McCartan encouraged supporters to continue to collect outstanding pledges and send contributions "in order to take full advantage of the openings in politics we continue to encounter and the interest we have found in a working-class campaign. We still need the additional \$10,000," he added.

"It is precisely those funds that made it possible for James Harris to attend the recent convention of the NAACP, and for Laura Garza to join tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans July 14, standing up to assert their national dignity," said McCartan. The protest took place during the U.S. governors meeting being held in Fajardo, in that Caribbean island.

Harris, the Socialist Workers' presidential candidate, and Garza, the vice-presidential candidate, got right back on the campaign trail following a break to attend the International Socialist and Active Workers Conference in Ohio at the beginning of July. Fall tour plans include traveling to Mexico, Europe, and the Pacific. "The socialist alternative is for fighters the world over, regardless of borders," McCartan emphasized.

Leaders of the Young Socialists will be traveling with both candidates through the end of the campaign. Recruiting new members to the YS and building chapters in a number of cities is a central goal of the communist youth organization over the next four months.

An indication of the openings presented for the campaign have been the contribu-

tions sent from the most diverse areas by people soon after they had learned about the campaign: Tukwila, Washington; Carysville, Ohio; Auburn, Alabama; Helena, Montana, and more. Donations have ranged from \$5 to \$1,000.

"Yesterday's stock market plunge," said McCartan, referring to the July 15 drop on Wall Street, "is but another reminder of the times working people face today, the bigger battles coming down the road, and the need to present a political alternative in order to construct a fighting vanguard party and youth organization."

Contributions can be sent to the Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009.

The Socialist Workers are planning to surpass ballot requirements in the following ten states:

State	Petitioning in	Required signatures for presidential slate
Alabama	5,000	July
Iowa	1,500	July - Aug.
Minnesota	2,000	done
New Jersey	800	done
New York	15,000	July - Aug.
Rhode Island	1,000	July - Aug.
Utah	300	done
Vermont	1,000	August
Washington State	200	done
Washington, D.C.	3,500	July - Aug.

Contribute to the Socialist Workers \$90,000 1996 Campaign Fund			
	GOAL	PAID	PERCENT
Twin Cities	5,000	5,836	117%
Atlanta	2,000	2,269	113%
Peoria	1,200	1,348	112%
Detroit	3,500	3,890	111%
Cleveland	1,200	1,330	111%
Des Moines	600	668	111%
Boston	3,500	3,745	107%
Seattle	5,000	5,290	106%
Philadelphia	4,700	4,990	106%
Houston	2,000	2,120	106%
Los Angeles	8,000	8,149	102%
Pittsburgh	5,000	5,000	100%
Morgantown	500	500	100%
Salt Lake City	2,000	1,943	97%
Washington, D.C.	2,000	1,935	97%
Newark	5,500	5,241	95%
Birmingham	3,200	3,033	95%
Miami	2,000	1,805	90%
Chicago	5,000	4,000	80%
San Francisco	10,000	7,522	75%
Greensboro	1,500	885	59%
Brooklyn	7,000	3,995	57%
New York	7,000	3,316	47%
Other		1,675	
TOTAL	87,400	80,485	89%
SHOULD BE	90,000	90,000	100%

Campaign for the socialist alternative!

- ☐ Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- ☐ Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- ☐ Enclosed is a \$ _____ contribution
- ☐ I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- ☐ Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Zip _____
 Union/School/Organization _____

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009
 Compuserve: 104124,1405 Phone: (212) 328-1504

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join in selling Pathfinder books and pamphlets

'We are confident of big class struggles in the future'

Below are excerpts from an article in the June 5 Washington Post under the headline, "Book Marx — Adams-Morgan Store Caters to Readers of Dead Reds."

Statues of Lenin have been toppled throughout Eastern Europe, East Germany has reunited with the West, the Cold War is over. Still, the doors of Pathfinder, a 30-year-old communist bookstore on the outskirts of Adams-Morgan, remain open.

The unremarkable storefront, with its hand-painted sandwich board, Ikea-style shelves and folding chairs, looks more like a Christian Science reading room than a revolutionary outpost. Except, that is, for the books. Several volumes containing "The Complete Works of Trotsky," "The Mao Myth," "Revolutionary Cuba Today" and "Eugene Debs Speaks" are displayed on the sparsely filled racks. Periodicals like the Militant and Granma Internacional are tucked like church bulletins into plastic clip-racks or stacked neatly on a bingo table set up by the front door.

"We're confident that there will be big class struggles in the future," says Janice Lynn, Pathfinder's new co-owner, "and we will grow accordingly. Maybe. Although for the moment, with the communist movement here more of a gaunt speck than the "haunting spectre" warned of by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the shop's single room is probably sufficient. Five visits to the store found only two customers: an Ethiopian-

born international politics student who was accompanying a friend. Both nervously declined to be identified, saying only that "it wouldn't be good" if others found out where they'd been....

"While we get all types of people in here, most of our customers are young," Lynn insists, with the dog-eared optimism of a Boston Red Sox fan who is confident the team will win the World Series. "They see the attacks against unions and the insecurity of the working people. Not to exaggerate it, but there are a lot of people out there who are fed up and looking for answers. They come here to learn about the lessons and experiences of workers and revolutionaries."

Lynn, who has managed the Pathfinder for the past five years, joined with a co-worker, Brian Williams, to buy the store in January. It's one of 27 independently owned Pathfinder bookstores throughout the United States; another 11 are spread through Canada, Australia, Western Europe and New Zealand.

For Lynn, who was born in the Bronx, the bookstore remains more an act of devotion than a viable profession. She works full time in airline cabin service, the latest of several occupations she's held.

"We're trying to expand sales of the books and pamphlets by doing a lot of visitation to protests and different workplaces," Lynn says. "That's what we foresee for the future. And as developments in the class struggle take place, we'll be there."

The shop, kept open 26 hours a week by a group of about 10 volunteers including Lynn's husband, students, a college professor and railroad and auto workers, also serves as an off-hours meeting place for the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists. In addition, the Pathfinder presents a weekly forum featuring a variety of topics like Irish-American unity, the bombing of Lebanon and the imprisonment of convicted cop killer and cause célèbre Mumia Abu-Jamal. In total, about 30 people visit the shop each week, Lynn says.

Political ideology isn't all that's offered at Pathfinder, however. Amid the bulk of communist-related texts, browsers can find books on the history of the Teamsters, Malcolm X's rhetoric, women's issues and conflicts in Ireland and the Middle East.... Still, Pathfinder will never be your typical neighborhood bookstore. As Lynn says: "We offer some information that you can't find at Oleson's or the Super Crown."

Beginning with this issue, the Militant has changed the layout of the Pathfinder books campaign chart. Provided are monthly totals in areas where Pathfinder is distributed, as well as three previous months' totals are included for comparison. The Militant will continue to print, on a monthly basis, the Pathfinder chart. We encourage our readers to send in any suggestions that would make the chart more useful in selling revolutionary books.

Monthly sales of Pathfinder

Countries/Cities	June Totals			Previous Monthly Totals		
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	May	April	March
AUSTRALIA	36	41	114%	156%	81%	
CANADA						
Toronto	160	131	82%	136%	69%	46%
Montreal	136	64	47%	34%	60%	32%
Vancouver	64	26	41%	84%	72%	153%
Canada Total	360	221	71%	102%	66%	62%
Goal/Should be	312	312	100%			
NEW ZEALAND						
Christchurch	28	28	100%	118%	106%	
Auckland	65	54	83%	105%	148%	
NZ Total	93	82	88%	109%	136%	
Goal/Should be	95	95	100%			
SWEDEN						
Stockholm	100	75	75%	49%		
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	193	162	84%	140%		
Manchester	111	68	61%	54%		
Sheffield	34	1	3%	109%		
UK Total	338	231	68%	109%		
UNITED STATES						
Des Moines	80	773	966%	25%	36%	155%
San Francisco	169	232	137%	75%	53%	50%
Miami	80	107	134%	77%	72%	95%
Boston	115	132	115%	130%	86%	59%
Los Angeles	215	235	109%	75%	224%	102%
Atlanta	80	79	99%	54%	93%	115%
Philadelphia	112	110	98%	67%	99%	95%
Washington, D.C.	96	92	96%	79%	111%	78%
Chicago	137	102	74%	35%	132%	45%
Cleveland	90	50	56%	77%	44%	14%
Peoria	48	24	50%	56%	72%	36%
Detroit	137	63	46%	37%	181%	69%
Salt Lake City	90	38	42%	50%	66%	104%
Houston	80	29	36%	36%	135%	84%
Greensboro	77	27	35%	91%	70%	40%
Seattle	140	45	32%	68%	82%	89%
Twin Cities	153	46	30%	45%	42%	91%
New York	350	95	27%	44%	52%	69%
Birmingham	115	28	24%	14%	54%	82%
Brooklyn	295	67	23%	53%	57%	79%
Newark	304	39	13%	42%	35%	51%
Pittsburgh	112	10	9%	62%	46%	57%
Morgantown	57	4	7%	11%	60%	63%
U.S. Total	3132	2427	76%	56%	84%	74%
Goal/Should be	3200	3200	100%			

Hundreds protest burnings of Black churches

BY BOBBISACK

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Four hundred people gathered here July 2 for a march and church service to protest the burning of Black churches in the South.

Sponsors of the event included the NAACP, AFL-CIO, Jewish Community Relations Council, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Baptist Ministers Conference, Black Male Coalition, and American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Participants gathered at the Avondale Town Center and marched a short distance to the Southern Baptist Church, where the service was held. Speaker after speaker condemned the racist church burnings, and pointed to the solidarity that is being forged

in opposition to these attacks and to help rebuild the churches. The platform included Cincinnati mayor Roxanne Qualis.

Rev. Damon Lynch Jr., president of the Baptist Ministers Conference, gave a report on progress in raising funds to rebuild the burned churches. Thousands of dollars have been raised here so far, including several donations of \$500 and \$1,000 from local churches.

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DES MOINES, Iowa — Around 300 people gathered June 30 in the parking lot of the Corinthian Baptist Church here to protest the string of arson attacks against predominantly Black churches across the South.

Sponsored by the Black Ministerial Alliance, the protest drew participants from a wide variety of Christian churches, as well as Jewish synagogues and Muslim mosques. Many individuals came on their own after seeing an announcement in the Des Moines Register, some driving an hour and a half from Pella and Ames, Iowa.

Participants were encouraged to sign up to help rebuild two churches in western Tennessee whose insurance was canceled by a West Des Moines firm after the buildings were torched.

The company's only explanation was that the premiums paid by the churches do not cover the loss. The contingent from Des Moines is scheduled to be working in Tennessee the first week of August.

Books sold to Co-workers					
Unions	June			May-Apr-Mar	
	Goal	Sold	% sold	Totals	
Canada					
IAM	13	8	62%	38%	
United Kingdom					
TGWU	7	3	43%	43%	
AEEU	10	4	40%	60%	
RMT	10	0	0%	0%	
UK Total	27	7	26%	34%	
United States					
UMWA	5	6	120%	60%	60% 100%
UFCW	6	3	50%	50%	42% 58%
UAW	65	25	38%	43%	82% 92%
USWA	58	15	26%	0%	29% 61%
OCAW	48	9	19%	38%	48% 88%
UNITE	42	7	17%	45%	33% 112%
UTU	85	12	14%	6%	38% 86%
IAM	71	0	0%	0%	70% 40%
Total	380	77	20%	23%	57% 82%
Goal	400	400	100%	100%	100 100%

NAACP convention pushes support for Clinton

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — The reelection of U.S. president William Clinton was the dominant political theme at the 87th annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which opened here July 6 and attracted more than 15,000 people over six days. "Four more years," chanted some of the participants when Clinton addressed a rally of 3,000 at the event July 10.

NAACP chairperson Myrlie Evers-Williams declared at the Convention Center rally that Clinton and her organization walked "hand in hand" on the issues.

"People know Clinton's so much better than Dole," Harvard University professor Cornel West told the Charlotte Observer. "Not that Clinton is that good," he added as an afterthought.

Shortly before Clinton's speech, NAACP president Kweisi Mfume introduced a resolution opposing Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole. In the statement the NAACP vowed to "promote voter-empow-

erment plans and strategies designed to defeat" public officials who oppose affirmative action.

Dole had snubbed the event, saying he would rather speak to audiences that "I can relate to." He said July 11 that Mfume had "spent the last decade attacking Republicans" and declared the NAACP invitation to address the group was an effort "to set me up." Dole told the New York Times, "It was a Republican, not a Democratic Senate" that passed the Martin Luther King holiday bill.

Despite the hoopla for Clinton, some of the convention participants were critical of the president. "A lot of us clap, but don't necessarily agree with what he is really saying," said Braimeh Kanu, president of the Springfield, Illinois, chapter of the NAACP.

"I think Clinton is just trying to make himself look good," said B.J. Hunt, an 18-year-old student from Shelby, North Carolina. "There should have been more action made instead of just saying 'I feel your pain,'" Hunt added. He criticized the Clinton

administration's response to the 70 Black churches that have been damaged or destroyed by arson or suspicious fires in the past 18 months.

About 250 people attended a panel discussion on the arson attacks. Panelists included Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval Patrick, from the U.S. Justice Department; James Johnson, from the U.S. Treasury Department; and Gloria Sweet, president of the NAACP's Tennessee state conference.

The federal officials discussed how cops from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the FBI, and other police agencies could work with local residents to establish "church watches" and other surveillance.

A few participants in the workshop expressed distrust in working with police.

"I live in an area where five churches were burned within a 35-mile radius," said Sweet. She told the audience how federal agents investigating the fires accused some elderly churchgoers of lying. "These were very rural people who were passive and easily in-

timidated." Some of the elderly residents were subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury 90 miles away in Memphis, Tennessee.

Curtis Gatewood, the 36-year-old president of the Durham chapter of the NAACP, spoke in an interview about the "1,000 Man Stand Against Church Burnings" scheduled for September 14. "Things that happen in America to Black people that oppress us as a people seem to be easily forgotten. If there are not any more burnings between now and September, this issue would be forgotten," the Baptist minister explained.

"This protest is called to maintain awareness and build on the success of the Million Man March. We thought we'd take the idea to the convention to reach those who might emulate this example. We have two months to get ministers, involve the ministerial alliance, [NAACP] branches across the state, and local Million Man March groups around the state." Gatewood reported that he helped organize two demonstrations — a march of 1,000 in December and a Men and Women Against Violence rally of 600 in March.

Socialist conference marks turning point in building of communist movement

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

OBERLIN, Ohio — When the Active Workers and International Socialist Conference ended here July 9, hundreds of participants headed back to union picket lines, activities to defend the Cuban revolution, marches to support affirmative action and immigrant rights, and other social protests. They left the gathering determined to take the necessary steps to increase the size and striking power of the communist movement.

The axis of the main reports and workshops at the conference, hosted by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists, was a political reorientation to qualitatively expand sales of Pathfinder books. The socialists based this move on the indispensable place of these political weapons in advancing class consciousness among workers and youth and building a proletarian party, one capable of leading working people to make a socialist revolution and take state power.

Feature presentations gave numerous examples of the hunger for revolutionary ideas among millions of toilers resisting the disastrous consequences of a world capitalist system mired in growing disorder.

Those present at the July 6-9 conference also resolved to take maximum advantage of socialist election campaigns in the United States over the next four months — the only working-class answer to the parties of war, racism, and depression — to disseminate the revolutionary program and recruit workers and youth to the Young Socialists and the SWP.

SWP branches are now planning membership conferences in every city to discuss the party-building perspectives outlined at the international gathering. At these meetings party members will also evaluate local efforts since the beginning of this year to increase sales of revolutionary literature — to win more workers to reading, thinking, and acting for themselves. They will decide how to institutionalize expanded Pathfinder sales — not as a short-lived campaign, but as a fundamental long-term change of course — and reinforce proletarian habits and norms in the process.

Nearly 600 people attended the conference. They participated in the plenary sessions as well as workshops aimed at increasing the effectiveness of political work by YS and party members and supporters. Classes were also held on a variety of political topics.

The Young Socialists, which was founded as a nationwide organization at a similar

gathering here in 1994, held an international meeting during the conference.

Some 15 percent of the participants in this year's gathering were under 26 years of age. Forty-two were college and high school students.

Participants came from cities across the United States and from nine other countries. Thirty-one languages were spoken by one or more of those in attendance.

Nearly half of those present were industrial workers and members of trade unions. The political discussions throughout the gathering were marked by the practical activity of communist workers in industry and the unions.

Many were active in other political organizations. Over 100 were members of local Cuba coalitions. Others belonged to abortion rights groups, organizations in solidarity with the Irish freedom struggle, coalitions opposing the death penalty and police brutality, and committees defending affirmative action and demanding equal rights for immigrants.

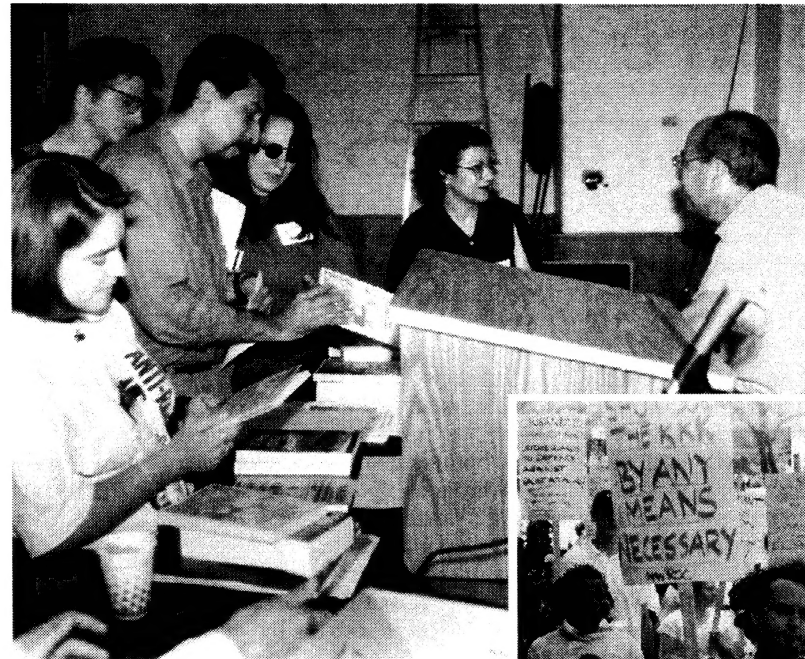
Turning point for movement

Laura Garza, a member of the SWP National Committee and the party's candidate for U.S. vice-president, opened the conference by welcoming participants. She co-chaired the first session along with Brian Taylor, a member of the YS National Committee and staff writer for the *Militant*.

The conference took place after a series of national leadership meetings of the SWP and the Young Socialists earlier this year, unprecedented in at least half a decade, Garza said. Together they will be looked back on as a turning point in the organization of the party, its class character, and its connection to new generations, she noted.

The first such turning point in the last two decades was in 1978-79, when the party organized the big majority of its members and leaders to get jobs in industry and to be active members of industrial unions. That coincided with the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Shah in Iran and revolutions that brought workers and farmers governments to power in Nicaragua and Grenada. These victories made possible for Cuban workers and their communist leadership to take new steps forward in building socialism and advancing their proletarian internationalist course.

A second turning point occurred in 1990-91, when the party was put to the test of mounting a working-class campaign against an imperialist war — Washington's assault



Militant/Bill Estrada

Workers and students rushed to buy and discuss *The History of the Russian Revolution* by Leon Trotsky after hearing a class by Doug Jenness (above).

on Iraq.

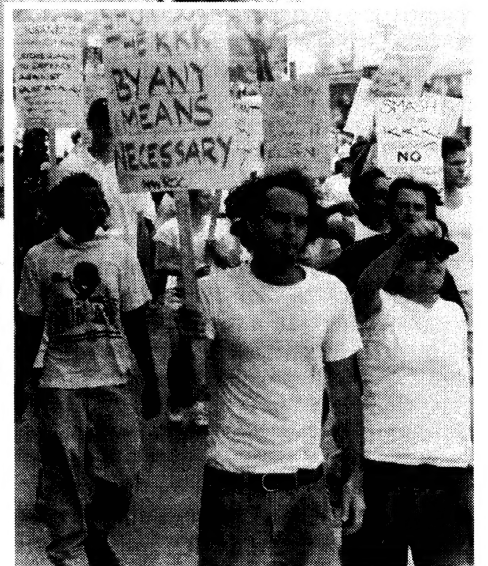
This time, the communist movement began discussing the new challenges and opportunities in building a proletarian party as Washington intensified war preparations against the workers states in Yugoslavia and China and mounted new military threats and economic attacks on socialist Cuba.

The SWP and the YS are taking these steps as part of an international movement, Garza said. Members of the Young Socialists and communist leagues from seven other countries attended and took an active part in the conference proceedings.

Dagoberto Rodríguez, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., was a special conference guest representing the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. The gathering also heard greetings from the African National Congress of South Africa, Movement of Landless Rural Workers of Brazil, Union of Young Communists of Cuba, and the Workers Party of Korea.

Taylor invited all the youth present to participate in the YS meeting. (Some 75 young people attended that gathering on July 8.) He then introduced Mary-Alice Waters, who gave the first feature presentation.

Waters, president of Pathfinder publishing and editor of the Marxist magazine *New*



Militant/John Sarge

Socialist workers and youth left conference at Oberlin and headed back to join actions, seeking fighters attracted to revolution. Above, June 22 anti-Klan protest in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

International, spoke on "Using, selling, and producing our books: Year one of the rectification process." Her talk focused on how to chart a course to reverse the decline in the size of the communist movement, and in its ability to respond timely and politically to new developments in politics, through getting books with the most powerful ideas on earth into the hands of thousands of fighters around the world. She also drew the lessons of the Cuban revolution relevant to such a political re-orientation.

SWP national secretary Jack Barnes spoke next morning on "Capitalism's world disorder: The struggle for a proletarian party today." Barnes gave the summary of the conference on the last evening as well.

James Harris, a member of the party's National Trade Union Committee and the SWP candidate for U.S. president, gave the third major talk on behalf of the NTUC. His presentation was titled "The changing face of US politics: Communism and the trade unions today." This is the first time in a decade that the party has been able to elect a national trade union leadership body made up almost entirely of SWP leaders who are currently working in industry.

"Building the Young Socialists and winning youth to the communist movement" was the title of the talk by Jack Willey, who spoke on behalf of the YS national steering committee. He said the Young Socialists has reaffirmed its goal set at the YS convention in April of doubling the size of the organization by the end of the election campaign in November.

Throughout the conference participants discussed the significance of and celebrated the release on parole of Mark Curtis, a member of the SWP National Committee who was framed up by the police in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1988 on false charges of attempted rape and burglary. After seven and a half years in prison, Curtis won release to Chicago, Illinois, and walked out of the Iowa state penitentiary June 18. He got an industrial job at a plant in Illinois as the conference was concluding.

The gathering was a working conference. Many of the themes the speakers developed at plenary sessions were discussed and debated at workshops. Those who were attending their first conference had a chance to talk about the main presentations in special daily sessions. There was lively discussion on important issues in world politics and the history of the working-class movement in many of the classes.

An upcoming issue will feature more extensive coverage of the gathering.

'People who want to make revolution!'

BY MEGAN ARNEY
AND SETH GALINSKY

OBERLIN, Ohio — "One day I was walking on Manhattan's lower east side and I saw this store with the book *The Truth About Yugoslavia* in the window display. I walked in and I agreed with most of the points of view I saw on the titles they had for sale, but at first I didn't get this whole thing about the importance of the Cuban revolution."

That's how Shoghi Fret, a 20-year-old worker from Brooklyn, New York, described his first contact with the communist movement. It was there, at the Pathfinder Bookstore in Manhattan that he learned about the International Socialist Conference at Oberlin. He later decided to participate. "The conference's been great," Fret said. "I haven't gotten any sleep. I've just been talking politics. It's incredible to see all these people who are politically active and who keep an open mind." Fret joined the Young Socialists at the gathering.

During the conference seven young people asked to join the Young Socialists and three others the Socialist Workers Party. Most of them met members of the two organizations during a variety of political activities.

Alejandra Rincón, 22, a sociology student at the University of Houston was among those who decided to join the Young Socialists. "I met the SWP and the YS at a forum about the Brothers to the Rescue planes that were shot down over Cuba in February," she said in an interview. "And then I

went with them to a meeting of the Houston committee in friendship with Cuba. Then I participated in a protest against the escalation of the U.S. economic war against Cuba by the Clinton administration — all in one weekend!"

When asked about the conference, Rincón said, "I'm impressed by the depth of the discussion here. I really liked the part in the talk by Jack Barnes about the kind of people necessary to build the party. It's people who want to make a revolution!"

Maria Isabel LeBlanc met the Communist League and Young Socialists in Montreal where she was active in the local committee in solidarity with Cuba and the fight for Quebec self-determination last fall. "When the struggle for Quebec independence broke out, even though I'm Quebecois, at first I thought Canadian unity was better. But I went through the protests and debates around the Quebec referendum and realized why the fight for independence is essential."

The article "Working Class Campaign against Imperialism and war" in *Nouvelle Internationale*, the French-language edition of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, "had the biggest impact on me," LeBlanc said. "It gave me confidence that in reality the only way to do effective politics is working in industry with other communists."

Daily discussions with newcomers

Rincón, LeBlanc, and many of the dozens of students, workers, and others attending their first conference took part in daily

meetings to discuss the content of the four feature presentations at the gathering. Between 20 and 50 people participated in each of these sessions organized by the conference welcoming committee. Often, discussion begun at classes and workshops spilled over into these meetings as well.

Jared Friedman, 14, a high school student from Boston, spoke in the discussion during the class on "Fascism: What it is and how to fight it." He said he had traveled to a campaign appearance by ultrarightist presidential hopeful Patrick Buchanan in Lexington, Massachusetts, in March. "I was there trying to drown out Buchanan," he said, along with 200 others — overwhelmingly young. "I talked to this one guy who was there backing Buchanan. He was blaming immigrants. He said Buchanan was good because he was for kicking out the immigrants." Friedman said he tried to win over this person by arguing that immigrants are looking for work like everyone else and should have the same rights.

What attitude should socialists take toward supporters of rightist groups? That became a topic of discussion during the first welcoming session. "Our starting point is that communists have no common ground with right-wingers in the hatred of bankers, the government, gun control laws, wiretapping, or repressive legislation," said SWP National Committee member Naomi Craine. "The radical right spouts ideological harangues about what it's against. We are not primarily against capitalists and their gov-

Continued on Page 14

'New International' tops conference sales

BY SARA LOBMAN
AND AMANDA ULMAN

OBERLIN, Ohio—"I went to the class on fascism because there have been some rightist attacks against immigrant workers in Iceland and I wanted to learn more about what's behind them," Siggi Herald, a 20-year-old member of the Young Socialists from Reykjavik, said in an interview here July 6. "Recently a swastika and some Nazi slogans were painted on the side of a church whose minister is Vietnamese."

Herald was visiting the literature display and exhibit center set up at Talcott Hall in Oberlin College during the Active Workers and International Socialist Conference, which took place here July 6-9.

Like many other conference participants, Siggi and his brother Benedikt Herald, also a member of the YS in Iceland, took advantage of the center to continue political discussions begun at conference classes and workshops. They also came to pick up books and pamphlets published and distributed by Pathfinder Press on working-class struggles and the fight for socialism.

'New International' top seller

In addition to buying books by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Leon Trotsky, the Heralds also made a purchase for their YS chapter back home—a collection of every article published over the last 60 years in the *New International*, a Marxist magazine of politics and theory.

The magazine was founded in July 1934 by pioneers of the communist movement in the United States and Canada. It has been published for more than six decades since then, presenting political, theoretical, and historical material that clarifies the most important questions of program, strategy, and organization confronting the working-class movement internationally.

The first two volumes in the collection, carrying all the articles in the magazine from 1934 to 1971, were available at the conference; the third will be ready later this year. The entire 3-volume set will be offered for sale to the public by the end of 1996. Some 120 sets were sold at the conference.

In all, conference participants bought more than \$21,000 worth of books—some 160 different titles—off the tables that lined the main room of the display center.

In addition to the *New International* collection, top sellers included 34 copies of an upgraded reprint of *The Third International after Lenin* and 22 copies of *The History of the Russian Revolution*, both by Leon Trotsky. More than 100 conference participants attended a class on the history of the Russian revolution presented by long-time SWP leader Doug Jenness.

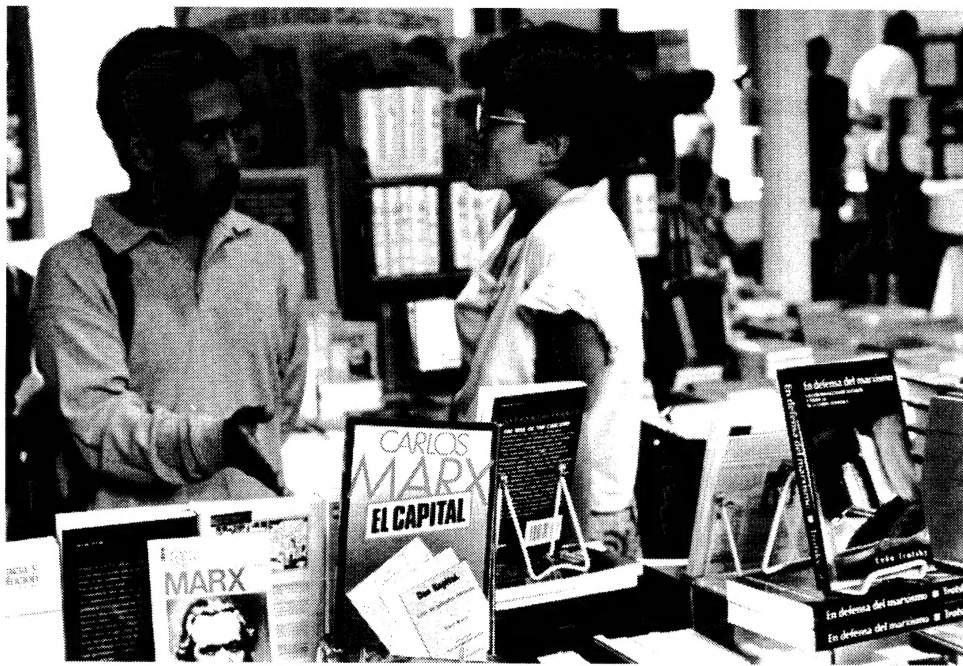
Interest in titles on the Cuban revolution was also high. Twenty copies of the Spanish-language edition of *Pombo: A Guerrilla with Che* were sold, as well as 14 copies of a book that includes both *Fidel Castro's Political Strategy* by Marta Harnecker and *History Will Absolve Me* by Fidel Castro.

Another popular title was *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes with 17 copies sold.

Purchases of books and pamphlets were closely connected to the discussions and debates unfolding at the main conference sessions, and at workshops and classes. Karolina Bjornheden, a 25-year-old worker from Sweden, met the Young Socialists in Athens, Georgia, where she has been living for several months. She was one of 15 people who picked up a copy of *The Politics of Chicano Liberation* following a class given by Róger Calero and the book's editor Olga Rodríguez. "The thing that impressed me most about that class and the one on the Russian revolution is that they weren't just about history," she noted. "They were about struggles today and the international character of the fight for the rights of all people to dignity and self-determination."

Debate on 'Marxism and Terrorism'

The liveliest debate unfolded in two classes, titled "From the Baku Congress to the Fight for Palestinian Self-Determination" and "Marxism and Terrorism." Martín Koppel, editor of the socialist monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Abby Tilsner, an auto worker just laid off from the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, New York, gave the presentation on the pamphlet *Marxism and Terrorism* by Leon Trotsky. They said that working people should give uncondi-



Discussions around literature display took place throughout the socialist conference

tional support to those fighting for their national liberation in the Middle East, Ireland, Quebec, and elsewhere.

A few participants in that class expressed a different view. While supporting fighters for national liberation, one argued, communists must criticize the recent IRA bombings at Canary Wharf and Manchester in Britain and the suicide bombings by Hamas supporters in Israel as ineffective methods of struggle. Another participant said that the Canary Wharf bombing dealt a setback to the Irish freedom struggle.

"In the face of the imperialists 'anti-terrorist' campaign—joined by many middle-class radicals—we must point out that the capitalist exploiters are the real terrorists," Koppel responded. "These bombings are an inevitable reaction to their system of oppression. And the bombs are their problem, not ours. The concern of revolutionists is whether there is a fight against national oppression and how to join it, seek out the militants, and as we stand shoulder to shoulder with them present a proletarian perspective. We rejoice at the fact that thousands of Irish and Palestinian patriots refuse to bend their knees to their imperialist oppressors; we don't join the chorus of crit-

ics against them."

Koppel said that if a proletarian wing develops as part of a national liberation movement, communists would support the tactics in the struggle put forward by that current. "But we don't hold against Palestinian and Irish combatants the fact that they don't have a communist leadership today—we don't tell them to stop struggling with whatever methods they know until they get a leadership worthy of them."

A couple of industrial workers from the United Kingdom said their experiences on the job after the recent bombings showed that, far from suffering a setback, supporters of the struggle for Irish self-determination continue to get a broad hearing as working people engage in wide-ranging debates on this question.

Meetings with authors, editors

Following these classes, many participants gathered at the front of the room to continue discussion informally and to buy copies of *Israel and the Arab Revolution*, *Marxism and Terrorism* and *Terrorism and Communism* by Leon Trotsky, *The Proletarian Revolution* and *Renegade Kautsky* by V.I. Lenin, and *Ireland*

and the *Irish Question* by Marx and Engels. *Marxism and Terrorism* was the top seller, with 15 copies purchased.

During lunch and in the evenings, special presentations were organized in the exhibit center. In the evening, authors and editors of several Pathfinder titles spoke. They included Michel Prairie, the editor of the French-language edition of *An Action Program to Confront the Economic Crisis*; Steve Clark, managing editor of *New International*; Michael Taber, editor of *Third International after Lenin*; and Betsey Stone, the editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*.

YS pamphlet

The YS table, featuring a display of some of the struggles Young Socialists members have been involved in over the past year, was active throughout the conference. YS members sold hundreds of copies of a new pamphlet with the political principles, campaigns, and rules of organization the YS adopted at their first national convention held April 6-7 in Minneapolis. In addition, the Young Socialists raised \$1,900 in a raffle.

Adam Wolfe, a young activist from Indiana was among the two dozen people who stopped by the Socialist Workers election campaign table to sign up to travel to different parts of the country to help campaign for James Harris and Laura Garza, socialist candidates for president and vice president. "These photos say a lot about the campaign," he said, pointing to the display. "The socialist candidates stand with immigrant workers, family farmers, and other working people."

There was a constant cluster of people around the big display that celebrated the recent release from prison on parole of socialist and union activist Mark Curtis, who was framed up by the police and sentenced to 25 years in prison in 1988. When he was arrested, Curtis was part of a fight to defend 17 immigrant coworkers in the Swift meatpacking plant in Des Moines, Iowa, whom the INS tried unsuccessfully to deport. "Many people here know of Mark's fight," said Maggie Perrier from Chicago, who was staffing the display. "But there are also many young people coming by the table who are learning the history of it for the first time." Copies of the pamphlet *Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?*, which tells the story of the fight, were available in English, Spanish, and French.

Pathfinder sets \$125,000 ten-week fund

BY BRIAN WILSON

OBERLIN, Ohio—One of the highlights of the Active Workers and International Socialist Conference was an enthusiastic rally on July 9 to launch a \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund.

The ten-week fund, which runs from September 1 through November 12, is aimed at raising resources to reprint and upgrade the hundreds of books and pamphlets Pathfinder publishes to ensure that they are in stock and available for sale.

"Interest in revolutionary literature is clearly on the rise," stated Maggie Trowe, director of the Pathfinder Print Shop. "There's a real demand for these books in the United States and throughout the world."

Socialist workers have been selling literature to striking members of the International Association of Machinists at the McDonnell-Douglas plant in St. Louis, Missouri.

Latino activists, who are marching some 750 miles through California from Sacramento to San Diego to protest attacks on affirmative action, have also been buying Pathfinder titles. One of them, while marching, has also been reading out loud sections from *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-class politics and the unions* on the Chicano liberation movement.

A team of Pathfinder supporters from Sweden and the United States recently sold \$450 worth of literature in Germany at protests against government attacks on the social wage. At a meeting in Berlin of about 500 students protesting tuition hikes, several of these activists were eager to get a copy of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*.

Some 25 Pathfinder titles were sold during a tour of Australia and New Zealand in June by Leonardo Tamayo (Urbano). Tamayo is a retired colonel in Cuba's Ministry of the Interior and one of the survivors of the 1966-67 guerrilla campaign led by Ernesto Che Guevara in Bolivia.

In Townsville, Australia, which is located about 1,200 miles north of Sydney, a high

school student upon hearing about Pathfinder sent in her mail order for three books.

In France earlier this year, hundreds of copies of *Nouvelle Internationale*, a Marxist magazine of politics and theory, were sold to workers and students protesting government cutbacks.

In Athens, Greece, the newest bookstore featuring Pathfinder titles opened its doors for business at the end of April.

"This response, combined with the fact that Pathfinder bookstores during the first six months of 1996 have ordered as many books from Pathfinder Press in New York as they did for all of 1995, point to the importance of prioritizing an ambitious reprint program," stated Trowe.

Pathfinder aims to keep its entire inventory of several hundred books and pamphlets in stock. In addition it distributes the writings of Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

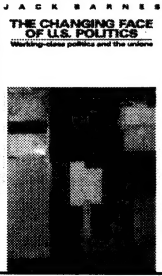
Last year Pathfinder published 29 books—both new and reprints. This year

25 books have already come off the presses, including 17 in the last three months. In addition, the publishing house has just made available on CD-ROM the collection of the Marxist magazine *New International* from 1934 to today.

Some of the next books to be reprinted include: *Leon Trotsky on China*, *Leon Trotsky on France, The Lesser Evil?*, *The Founding of the Socialist Workers Party*, *Revolutionary Continuity*, *The First Ten Years of American Communism*, *Reform or Revolution*, and *The Chinese Communist Party in Power*.

Socialist workers, youth, and others present at the concluding rally pledged more than \$69,000 toward the \$125,000 goal.

Those wishing to make a contribution toward this fund should make checks payable to Pathfinder Press and send them to: Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 or contact the nearest Pathfinder distributors listed in the directory on page 12.



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Cuban leader recounts revolutionary war

BY BOB AIKEN
AND RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia — "Che was a true communist, the communist of the 21st century," Leonardo Tamayo told a meeting of 150 people here June 15. Tamayo served almost continuously as a revolutionary fighter alongside Ernesto Che Guevara from 1957, when he joined the Rebel Army in Cuba as a 15-year-old from a peasant family, to the end of the Bolivian guerrilla campaign in 1967 where he was one of only five survivors.

Tamayo, also known by his combatant's name, Urbano, visited six cities in Australia and one in New Zealand in June. The tour was initiated through the Waverley Library and its chief librarian, Ron Lander, who chaired the public events in Sydney.

The library hosted two guest lectures by Tamayo. The first, held June 15, was on his experiences alongside Guevara during the revolutionary struggle in Cuba and the first years of the revolutionary government. A second talk, on June 29, covered the 11-month guerrilla campaign Guevara led in Bolivia to overthrow the military dictatorship there.

Marcelino Fajardo, Cuban consul-general to Australia, introduced Tamayo at the June 15 meeting, explaining that "Urbano is a symbol, a hero in Cuba" who was here to explain "the human profile of Che and the Cuban revolution." Fajardo also outlined Tamayo's career alongside Guevara and his voluntary service on later internationalist missions, from Angola in 1975-76 to Nicaragua in 1986-88. Tamayo is now a retired colonel in Cuba's Ministry of the Interior.

Responding to a question on his first meeting with Guevara, Tamayo recalled how he had won his place in the Rebel Army after he and his father, a peasant in the Sierra Maestra mountains, had both joined up. He was picked one day to deliver a message from Guevara to the Rebel Army's commander-in-chief, Fidel Castro, an errand that normally took two days. The young country boy ran over the hills and returned with Castro's reply at 6:00 p.m. the same day, handing it to a disbelieving Guevara. Later he was assigned to Guevara's command post.

Fighting in the 'suicide squad'

He told the story of how the "suicide squad," a special unit formed in Guevara's Rebel Army column, got its name. Roberto Rodríguez, known as "Vaquerito," took the initial idea of a "commando action group" to Guevara, Tamayo explained. Guevara thought it was a good idea, he said, but pointed out that this was the name used by capitalist armies, by murderous armies. He proposed that it be called the "suicide squad."

"Actions by the 'suicide squad,'" Tamayo explained, "consisted of taking a hand grenade in each hand, with the safety pin pulled, and a light machine gun across the chest, then getting as close as possible to the door of an army garrison, throwing the grenades in, and

immediately entering the garrison shooting. This we did on several occasions," he said.

Tamayo recounted the experiences of fighting under Guevara's leadership from the initial stage of the revolutionary war in the mountains in the southeast of Cuba — the Sierra Maestra — to the battle of Santa Clara in the middle of the island. As Guevara's column "took the garrison of Santa Clara, the third-largest in the country," Tamayo explained, "it was the definitive blow to the dictatorship" of Fulgencio Batista, which was backed by Washington.

Tamayo outlined how, after the triumph, "Che with his tremendous capacity for work" fulfilled many duties, "working 17, 18, or 19 hours a day with only 6 hours rest."

Guevara continued his military command responsibilities even after being appointed by Cuban president Fidel Castro as president of the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA) and then president of the National Bank. Later he was head of the Ministry of Industry.

"Che also represented Cuba in the United Nations, where he told the truth about imperialism in imperialism's own house," he added.

Tamayo was present at Guevara's 1961 speech at Punta del Este, Uruguay, where, at the Inter-American Economic and Social Conference sponsored by Organization of American States, Guevara scored Washington's aggression against Cuba.

In contrast to the heads of the capitalist governments who gave brief speeches, Tamayo said, "Che spoke for an hour and a half without papers or notes."

Afterward, Tamayo recounted that Guevara, in response to a journalist's question about his "former homeland," had swiftly responded, "I don't have a 'former' homeland. My homeland is Argentina, my homeland is Cuba, my homeland is Latin America, my homeland is the entire world. I have more homeland than you."

Defending affirmative action, immigrants

Continued from front page

How does affirmative action affect students? Adrian Nuñez, who joined the march in Stockton, California, put it this way: "Thanks to affirmative action I will be in school at UC Davis this fall. I'm not afraid to say it. Affirmative action is not a burden to anyone. It helps society as a whole because racism and discrimination are still out there and affirmative action is a tool to help us. CCRI will set us back 30 years. We've been asleep. Now we're waking up to these attacks and youth are getting involved again."

Patrick Sánchez-Powell is a student at Delta College in Stockton. He is president of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA) on campus and the main organizer for La Marcha in the San Joaquin Valley. Sánchez-Powell explained, "This



Leonardo Tamayo, known as 'Urbano,' speaking at Waverley Library in Sydney.

When another participant in the meeting asked what sort of political education was carried out in the Rebel Army, Tamayo pointed out that he had "never been to school — where we lived there were no schools."

"There was very good political education for the entire Rebel Army," Tamayo added, "the example of Fidel and Che." In addition, the largely illiterate recruits were taught to read and write.

"After the triumph of the insurrection we began to study politics from books," he said. "All the men who were with Che took to study, in many cases up to university."

He told of how Guevara during the guerrilla war used even punishment for indiscipline in an educational way, with solitary confinement serving also as an assignment to read some books and be tested on them. "He was giving us culture," Tamayo commented.

'Che gave everything for his work'

Another questioner wanted to know whether Che was "exploited" by working so hard. Tamayo responded that "men like Che could never be exploited. Che was a man of conviction and judgment. Men like Che give everything for their responsibilities

and for their work." He emphasized that "in the early years there were very few people to take on the top positions. Not only did Che work for up to 19 hours, but Fidel, Raúl, and all the top leaders" worked very hard. "That is why Che is an example. That is why I say Che is the communist of the 21st century."

Asked about the place land reform had played in winning peasants like him and his father to the revolution, Urbano remarked, "I believe it was one of the fairest measures of the revolution, giving the peasants the land they had worked for years, which was in the hands of exploiters and big companies."

"I can say land reform is still in force in Cuba," he said. "Even the previously state-run lands have been turned into agricultural and livestock cooperatives. It has been handed back to the agricultural workers and they have become masters of the land."

"The state-owned land has been handed over to those who want to work it," Tamayo emphasized, "so that today I can say we have even more agrarian reform!"

Tamayo concluded his presentation saying that "Che was dedicated to work, and dedicated to the welfare of humanity. It was for the welfare of humanity that he gave his life."

proposition is anti-affirmative action. They purposely misnamed it to throw people off. I encourage people to use their ballot as a bullet on this issue."

The day before, on June 12, La Marcha activists met at a park near the University of Southern California. They marched northward, chanting and passing out leaflets along the way. When La Marcha reached this city's Koreatown, they were greeted by a rally of about 50 supporters who were organized by a coalition of Korean organizations.

The groups included Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates, Center for Korean Youth Culture, Korean Youth and Student Union, UCLA Korean American United Students for Education and Service, and UCLA Korean Cultural Awareness Group.

After the rally La Marcha continued east to a Korean restaurant where they were treated to lunch. Then they marched to MacArthur Park, in the center of the Latino community, as their final destination for the day.

La Marcha will be in the Los Angeles area until July 22. Then they will continue south to San Diego to protest attempted cuts in affirmative action at the Republican Party National Convention. For more information on upcoming activities call toll-free 1-888-789-1632.

BY VANESSA KNAPTON AND BARRY FATLAND

LOS ANGELES — On July 4, more than 350 protesters gathered across the street from the Westwood Federal Building to demonstrate against a rally of some 200 anti-immigrant, Proposition 187 supporters.

The rally was called Americans for America, Voices of Citizens Together (the backers of 187), United We Stand America (Ross Perot's campaign organization),

and California Coalition for Immigration Reform. About half of the participants in the mostly older-aged crowd were women. There a few Blacks and Latinos, but the overwhelming majority were white. Their demands included securing America's borders, deporting "illegal aliens," and supporting the police.

Waving American flags and wearing T-shirts of red white and blue, their picket signs included, "No Prenatal Care for Pregnant Illegals! Deport Them!" and "No Mexicans." Many wore "Buchanan for President" T-shirts.

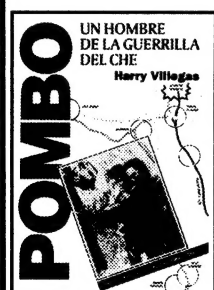
The overwhelmingly young crowd of counterprotesters came from various organizations in the area that support immigrant rights and Chicano liberation, including UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition, Brown Berets, Young Socialists, Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, the Filipino organization Bayan International, and Aztlán Underground, a Chicano music group.

The counterprotest grew as the demonstration continued, despite police barricades that had blocked off all three street entrances and helicopters circling overhead.

Early in the march, an ultraleft group called Progressive Labor Party left the counterprotest to attack the anti-immigrant demonstrators. Within minutes, the police attacked them and more police came on the scene. Cops beat a number of protesters and arrested some. By the end of a melee, there were two helicopters circling the protest, more than 30 cop cars, and hundreds of cops in riot gear holding the protesters in line.

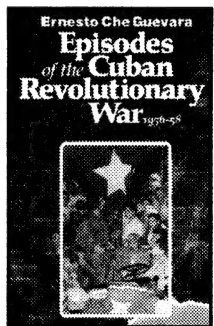
The counterprotest was not stopped by the action and more people joined the march. A big contingent of mostly immigrant workers who are organizing the October 12 national march on Washington for immigrant rights came chanting "Esta es nuestra tierra — This is our land." Dancers in Aztec dress and Korean drummers danced and beat music as protesters held banners and chanted. For three hours, the defenders of immigrant rights stayed until all the rights left.

More on Cuba from Pathfinder



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Clinton imposes sections of anti-Cuba law

BY HILDA CUZCO

U.S. president William Clinton said July 16 that Washington would allow legal action against foreign firms doing business in Cuba, but announced a six-month moratorium on actually filing such lawsuits. This action comes under Title III of the Helms-Burton law, due to take effect on August 1. The president's decision followed the State Department's announcement of the first punitive measures against a Canadian mining firm under another provision of the act. Governments in the European Union have announced retaliatory measures against the law.

The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms and Rep. Dan Burton a year ago, was signed by Clinton March 12 under the pretext that the Cuban air force had shot down two airplanes piloted by Cuban counterrevolutionaries who violated that nation's airspace.

The law has been explicitly designed to pressure foreign investors to pull out of Cuba. Title IV, which is already in effect, says that any company that commits further "trafficking" in confiscated property in Cuba after March 12, 1996, is subject to a U.S. travel ban. Under that provision, the State Department has announced that the director and other officers of Sherritt International Corp., a Toronto-based mining company, will be barred from entering the United States. Sherritt has been operating jointly with a Cuban state-owned mining company for the last two years at a nickel mine that was expropriated from a New Orleans company, Moa Bay, shortly after the triumph of the Cuban revolution in 1959.

Sherritt's director, Ian Delaney, has expressed his opposition to the Helms-Burton Act. Delaney told the *Toronto Star* last year that the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba is "the meanest and ugliest part of American foreign policy."

Title III of the law allows U.S. citizens and corporations to sue foreign companies in U.S. courts that "traffic" in property confiscated by the Cuban people in the 1960s. The total amount of these certified claims is \$1.8 billion — not including interest. Thousands of Cuban immigrants who left the island after the revolution and are today U.S. citizens fall in the "uncertified" claimant category. Before the Helms-Burton Act, they could not pursue claims in U.S. courts to try to get back their properties. Now they can do so after a two-year wait.

During the visit of Mexico's president Ernesto Zedillo to Canada last June both governments announced their opposition to the law. At a joint session of the Canadian Parliament June 11, Zedillo said, "Mexico and Canada consider inadmissible every measure that, rather than promote liberty, obstructs freedom, that instead of dropping barriers, erects them to the detriment of international investment and business."

The Mexican company Grupo Domos,

which bought half of the Cuban telephone company in 1994 for \$750 million, has received a warning letter from Washington under the tightened U.S. embargo. ITT, a New York-based communications company, ran the Cuban phone system before the Cuban revolution.

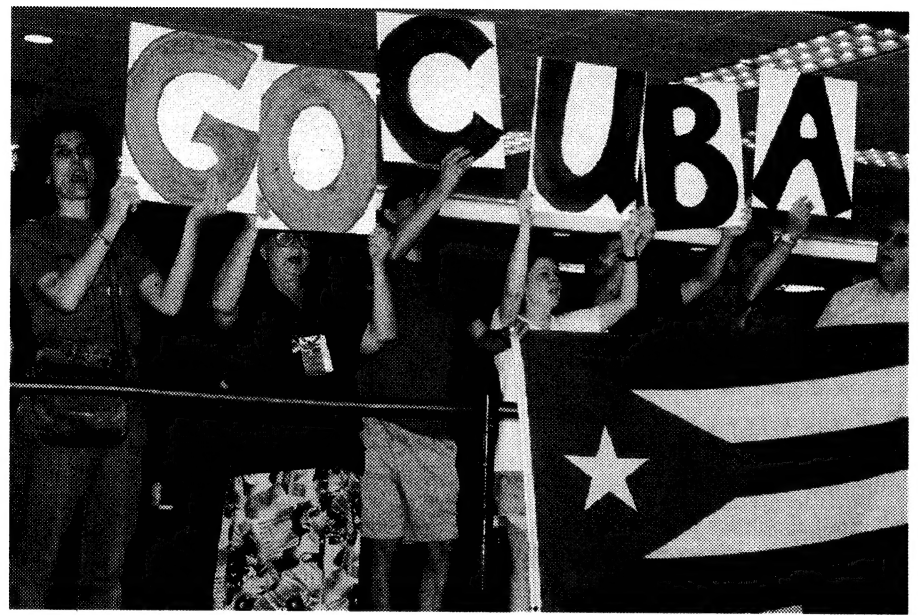
European Union (EU) members meeting in Brussels July 15 agreed on several steps to be taken in retaliation to the Helms-Burton Act if Clinton did not suspend Title III. The measures include visa restrictions, an appeal to the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement body, and steps to neutralize the effects of the act outside the United States among others.

"The best way to get change in Cuba is not to clobber your allies," said Leon Brittan, EU vice president and trade commissioner. The EU nations, led by Spain, France and Italy, accounted for 45 percent of Cuba's total trade in 1994, mainly in food, tobacco, and minerals.

In an interview with MSNBC, a new cable and Internet news service, president Clinton acknowledged the possibility of problems with his European allies and competitors, but he added, "I must do what I think is in the national interest of the United States and what is likely to bring democracy to Cuba. We have to keep pushing until we get a democratic response in Cuba." The president will again review whether to implement Title III in January.

A White House statement exhorted its allies to "Join us now in the effort to confine Cuban communism to the trash bin of history where it belongs. Join us in bringing the kind of pressure to bear on Fidel Castro and on that system that will bring about market economics and democracy in Cuba."

Meanwhile, three Cuban athletes defected to the United States in early July. Joel Casamayor, 24, and Ramón Garbey, 25, Cuban Olympic boxers were considered favorites to win gold medals at this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta. They split their



Militant/Bob Braxton

Members of Atlanta Network on Cuba greet Cuban athletes arriving for Olympics July 15. The airport welcome was the first of several activities planned by the solidarity group. An event to "Salute Cuba's Olympic Athletes" will be held Sat., July 27, at First Iconium Baptist Church, 6 p.m. For more information call ANOC at (404) 687-8323.

training camp in Mexico to go to California.

In an interview with the *New York Times*, both complained that Cuban authorities failed to provide them with automobiles and houses. "My car was a Chinese-made bicycle," griped Casamayor, while Garbey said he was humiliated by missing practices because overcrowded buses would not stop at his corner. They claimed they had been pressured to join the Union of Young Communists, and lost privileges when they refused. While the two claim to be political refugees, *Times* reporter James Sterngold noted they "knew little about politics and cared less.... Each expressed a great interest in meeting American women" and in

professional boxing careers.

Cuban baseball pitcher Rolando Arrojo also defected to the United States in Albany, Georgia. Arrojo, 32, was a member of the Cuban Olympic team that will participate in the Atlanta games. He told the U.S. press that he has left a wife and two children, and that his decision "was very hard, but I had to take it to make my dreams of freedom and play for the major leagues come true."

Speaking to the Cuban delegation that will compete Atlanta in a send off ceremony, Cuban president Fidel Castro said, "We should despise those who sell themselves for 12 coins, as they say those were the coins that Judas received for his betrayal."

Youth head to Cuba, plan report-backs

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

With just days left before participants in the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange leave for Santiago, Cuba, local coalitions and Youth Exchange committees all over the country are planning send-off, report-back, and other activities for the trip. New people continue bumping into those already going to Cuba and then decide to go themselves, bringing the current total of people that have their spot on the trip secured to just over 150.

In Minneapolis a press conference is scheduled for 1 p.m. July 20, at the University of Minnesota. All the young people on the trip will have a chance to explain why they are going. Later that evening they have planned a send-off, also at the university. Tom Hansen, a Pastors for Peace leader, has been invited to address the meeting and give an update on the fight around demanding that the U.S. government release computers donated to Cuba.

A successful fund-raiser was carried out in Boston on Thursday July 11, entitled "Workers and Unions in Cuba Today." It took place at the Service Employees International Union Local 285 hall. The July 26th Coalition, a local group in solidarity with Cuba, invited several people who attended the 17th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers to speak. Jared Friedman, a Boston participant in the Youth Exchange, appealed to the audience for financial support.

The New York committee is building a send-off event for July 20 at Casa de las Américas. One of the featured speakers will be Leslie Cagan of the Cuba Information Project.

In Chicago participants are planning an orientation meeting to prepare travelers for the trip. Part of the program will include a presentation on the Cuban Revolution and its impact on Cuban-Americans now in solidarity with Cuba. They also have a concert planned for July 21 that includes as its featured performer Alberto Tosca, a Cuban guitarist who is awaiting his visa to tour in the United States. A report-back has also been set up in the form of a radio interview on the Northeastern University radio station.

The Atlanta delegation of the Youth Exchange have already secured at least two

report-back activities. One will take place at a campus coffee shop at the University of Georgia, which will include Bernardo Gomez, coordinator of the Atlanta Network on Cuba (ANOC). The other event will be reporting to senior students at Paideia high school. ANOC also sent out a 200-piece mailing calling for friends of Cuba to contribute as many pencils as possible that will go to schools, hospitals, farms, and factories.

Clint Ivie, a member of United Auto Workers Local 882 and a member of the Young Socialists in Atlanta, wrote a letter to the *Militant* describing his fight to get time off work to go on the trip. Explaining how a manager at his plant gave him time

off, then got replaced by another manager who threatened to ignore the previous decision, Ivie wrote, "I told the new plant manager about the days I needed off and that it was already approved. He told me he would talk it over with the general management and that he couldn't make any promises."

"I went immediately to my shop steward and told her what was going on. She went straight to human resources. The next day the plant manager came and made it look like he had done me a favor by giving me the day off and had the nerve to ask me to work harder in exchange for the 'favor.' But in reality, of course, he knew I had more support on my side from co-workers and the union than he had on his."

Subpoena of Pastors for Peace records is 'about intimidation'

BY TONY LANE

MINNEAPOLIS — "This grand jury subpoena is not about law enforcement, it's about intimidation and intelligence gathering," said Tom Hansen, director for Pastors for Peace speaking to the *Militant* on the government probe which began in February in Buffalo, New York. The grand jury is charged with investigating the Pastors-organized Friendshipment caravans to Cuba, which passed through Buffalo in 1994 and 1995.

Hansen reported that the judge in the case had just granted the government an indefinite extension. Earlier the judge ruled that the government had to respond within a month to the Pastors' motion for quashing the investigation on the grounds that some of the information used in the subpoena was gained by illegal wiretaps.

The filing of a motion to quash the investigation, Hansen explained, "was based on the evidence we had. This included an illegal wiretap we discovered in San Diego, the high-tech surveillance we have witnessed on every caravan, and an inter-agency task force report we got hold of."

Included in this task force was the FBI, the U.S. Attorney's office, the Border Pa-

trol, the Treasury Department, the fire and police departments in San Diego, and the California Transportation Department. One or all of these agencies could have had us under surveillance."

Hansen explained that one of the facts mentioned in the subpoena, the name of the ship used to transport material to Cuba, they believe could only have been gained through such intelligence.

The Pastors' motion is part of an effort to narrow the scope of the subpoena. While the basis of the subpoena is the fourth and fifth Friendshipments, which took place in November 1994 and July 1995, the government is demanding "every piece of paper, every piece of correspondence, lists of all the people who have been on the caravans, all the files including the financial files from these two years," Hansen said.

Hansen explained that his organization was involved in many activities during those two years which would come under the spotlight of this probe. These included "study trips to Cuba; caravans and trips to Central America; caravans and humanitarian trips to Chiapas, Mexico; speaking tours of the United States; and organization of demonstrations," he said.

Communist youth in Cuba build 1997 world festival

Young sugar workers at the Jesús Menéndez sugar mill complex in Las Tunas, Cuba, have taken the lead on raising funds to build the world youth festival happening there next year, reported *Juventud Rebelde*, the paper of the Union of Young Communists (UJC).

Their contribution, a result of hours of voluntary labor, will go towards expenses to make the event possible.

Set to take place in August 1997 and officially named the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students, it is an international gathering of young people to discuss and debate conditions imposed by imperialism on a world scale. Women's rights, employment, democracy, the struggle for sovereignty, the fight against racism, xenophobia, and imperialism are among the many topics of discussion.

Recently the UJC of Cuba has sent festival-building delegations to Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine. Regional meetings in Colombia and Brazil discussed building broad participation from South America.

An International Solidarity Fund has been established to help workers and youth attend the international festival.

—BRIAN TAYLOR

Communist Party backs warmongering president

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In keeping with its long history of class collaboration, the Communist Party USA (CP) has come out early and vocally in favor of the Democratic Party in the November presidential and Congressional elections.

"Ridding the U.S. Congress of the fascist-like wing of the Republican Party and

gains of the civil rights movement.

Clinton has expressed his "support" for Latinos by escalating a crackdown on immigrant workers with police raids in plants throughout the country. A *New York Times* article described these raids as the "Immigration and Naturalization Service's newly declared war."

Clinton leads shift to right

Tyner and Hall warn of the "fascist danger" of the direction of House Speaker Newt Gingrich and "the Gang of 73 right-wing freshmen." In reality, Gingrich and his cohorts have fallen out of the spotlight in recent months, largely unable to carry through their frontal assault on the social wage working people have won over decades.

Clinton himself has been the point man in the bipartisan move to the right of bourgeois politics, especially in going after democratic rights moreso than the Republican administrations that preceded him.

The Democratic president, for instance, signed a broad "antiterrorism" bill into law April 24 that permits the government to deport immigrants accused of terrorism without presenting any evidence. The president had proposed expanding the wiretapping powers of federal agents, but this provision was excluded from the bill by Congress.

Clinton's new law also limits appeals by death row inmates which will lead to a step-up in executions and convictions of Blacks and other working people is expected from this law. This is consistent with Clinton's decision during his 1992 campaign to demonstratively return to Arkansas and witness the execution of a mentally disabled man, Ricky Rector.

While the Clinton administration has led the bipartisan effort in pounding away at democratic rights, Tyner decries the "hypocrisy" of the Republicans. Citing a concern for children, the president signed a bill on May 17 commonly known as "Megan's Law," which requires local notification about persons convicted of a sex offense after their release from prison. The law adds years to a person's sentence without the right to trial and jury.

At the same time, Washington maintains a six-year economic blockade that has starved hundreds of thousands of children in Iraq, and continues to chip away at welfare, Medicare, and Social Security benefits.

"Advocating a vote for Clinton and Democrats for Congress" is "not a pro-Clinton or pro-Democratic Party movement," Tyner intones. But, he adds, "the 'lesser of two evils' phenomenon unfortunately, is built into U.S. capitalist politics."

A similar approach is being taken by the Committees of Correspondence (CoC), a centrist regroupment of Stalinists, Trotskyists, and other petty-bourgeois radicals, dominated by forces that split from the CP several years ago. At its second national convention, held in New York July 12-14 and attended by 150 people, delegates debated endorsement of Clinton.

A small number of delegates at that gathering said they would leave the CoC if a formal endorsement of Clinton was adopted. This group favored endorsing Ralph Nader instead. Another delegate declared that "the best kept secret of the convention" was that



Miners read about Mine Workers union president John L. Lewis' rejection of President Franklin Roosevelt's no strike pledge during World War II. The Communist Party condemned a 1943 strike by coal miners as "disruption of the war effort."

the vast majority of members were going to support and vote for Clinton. By the end, the resolution adopted did not endorse the Democratic candidate, allowing differences over which bourgeois candidate to support. Revolutionary leader Malcolm X exposed the electoralist lesser-evil scam of the capitalist parties. Commenting on the victory of Democrat Lyndon Johnson — with the CP's support — over Republican Barry Goldwater in the 1964 presidential race, Malcolm said, "The shrewd capitalists, the shrewd imperialists, knew that the only way people would run toward the fox would be if you showed them a wolf."

Malcolm added, "Those who claim to be enemies of the system were on their hands and knees waiting for Johnson to get elected — because he is supposed to be a man of peace. And at that moment he had troops invading the Congo and South Vietnam! He even has troops in areas where other imperialists have already withdrawn."

The Communist Party likewise backed President Franklin Roosevelt during World War II, taking this counterrevolutionary stance so far as to condemn a 1943 strike by coal miners as a "disruption of the war effort and provocation. [Mine Workers union president John Lewis] wants to throw the country into a home-front war against the President, not against Hitler," as their paper editorialized. In a speech last October, CP chair Hall bragged that "the Communist Party played a key role in rallying the American people for the Second Front" in World War II.

Elections and the class struggle

"Elections in the capitalist system do not operate outside the class struggle," Tyner sermonizes. "During election years, the conflict between the two main contending classes shifts to the voting booths. This is

where the interests of the working class and the capitalist class will come into sharp conflict in 1996."

Tyner, a member of the National Board of the Communist Party USA, is trying to justify class collaboration, not class struggle.

"The action of the masses — a big strike, for instance — is more important than parliamentary activity at all times," wrote V.I. Lenin in his pamphlet, *"Left-Wing" Communism, An Infantile Disorder*. Lenin, a central leader of the Russian revolution, wrote the pamphlet in 1920 to explain how the communist vanguard became steered in long years of struggle against opportunism and social chauvinism.

"To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and oppress the people through parliament — this is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary-constitutional monarchies, but also in the most democratic republics," Lenin explained in *State and Revolution*.

"Democracy for an insignificant minority, democracy for the rich — that is the democracy of capitalist society," the revolutionary leader stated.

Lenin insisted, however, that this does not mean communists must not make use of parliament. "The Bolsheviks made better use of it than probably any other party in the world," he said. "Participation in parliamentary elections and in the struggle on the platform of parliament is obligatory for the party of the revolutionary proletariat precisely for the purpose of educating" the working class.

The Communist Party USA does nothing but miseducate and betray the working class with its pro-Clinton stance. Working people need a voice in the elections independent from the capitalist rulers. The only candidates providing one in this campaign are those on the Socialist Workers ticket.

NOW convention discusses fight for affirmative action

BY ELLEN BERMAN

LAS VEGAS — How to fight the recent proliferation of anti-affirmative action legislation and referendums was a major discussion at the National Organization for Women (NOW) annual conference held here June 28-30. Six hundred people attended the conference, which was also a celebration of NOW's 30th anniversary.

Opponents of affirmative action are currently circulating "Civil Rights Initiatives" in five states — California, Colorado, Florida, Oregon, and Washington — for the November 1996 elections, and legislative efforts being introduced under the guise of "civil rights" or "equal opportunity" in at least 17 states. These initiatives would ban affirmative action programs for women and minorities.

Protests against these attacks will be a focus of the demonstrations that will take place outside the Republican National Convention in San Diego in August, along with defending immigrant rights. Conference participants discussed joining and building this action.

NOW president Patricia Ireland called for getting out to vote for the Democrats. "President Clinton is our option for president this year," she said in her keynote speech, adding, "He is not the answer. We are the an-

swer." Discussion on the 1996 elections, women running for political office, and raising money for the NOW Political Action Committee took up much of the conference.

Among the many resolutions adopted was one that denounced the recent church burnings and committed NOW to joining with other allies to "keep pressure on the U.S. Department of Justice, the attorney general, and the president to uncover and prosecute the responsible individual(s) and/or group(s) to the fullest extent of the law."

Resolutions were also passed on Native American rights, supporting young feminism, calling for a national day of action in support of same-sex marriages, and reaffirming NOW's commitment to working welfare rights and the right to safe, legal, accessible abortion on demand.

Laura Garza, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, and several of her campaign supporters attended the conference. Supporters of the 1996 Socialist Workers campaign pointed out that women's rights activists can't depend on the Democratic or Republican parties to defend our rights. Conference participants bought about \$100 worth of Pathfinder books from a campaign table, as well as 13 copies of and one subscription to the campaign paper, the *Militant*.

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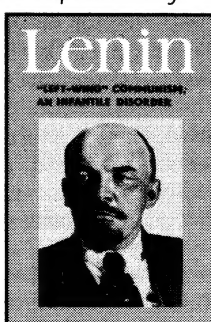
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Detroit strikers mark a year of struggle

BY JOHN SARGE
AND DOUG DOUTHAT

DETROIT — "There is no easy way to get justice," Kate DeSmet, a striking member of Newspaper Guild Local 22, explained. "The reason I'm out 365 days later is that I have values that are worth more than a paycheck. It means something to stand up with other workers who care as much about my job as they care about their jobs. We won't crawl back without our union contract."

DeSmet was addressing 1,000 strikers and their supporters in front of the Detroit News building at a July 13 protest to mark the beginning of year two on the picket line.

Some 2,500 editorial, production, and distribution workers, organized in six unions, went on strike July 13, 1995, against this city's two daily newspapers, the *News* and *Free Press*, and their business agent, the Detroit Newspaper Agency (DNA). The workers are fighting to protect jobs, wages, working conditions, and their right to negotiate jointly.

After the rally in downtown Detroit the strikers and their supporters held a mock funeral procession to the north printing plant in Sterling Heights, with a casket to symbolize the "death of two great newspapers." The Sterling Heights plant was the scene of mass picketing last August and September. After repeated assaults by the police and company goons on the picket lines and mobilizations of up to 3,000 strikers and



Militant/John Sarge

2,000 Detroit news strikers march to Detroit News Building last April

their supporters, delaying the distribution of the newspapers, the companies got a court injunction that limits picketing.

The gathering in Sterling Heights featured an open mike for strikers. Dave Mills, a striking Teamster, explained that while the strikers were holding a funeral to mark the death of the newspapers, that didn't mean

the strike was over. He promised the employers, "I'll be around three days after we win the strike, alive and kicking."

Carol O'Neal, a striking member of the pressmen's local union, explained that "80 percent of the strikers are still out, and we welcome any of the 20 percent who crossed the picket line or the scabs the companies

have hired to join us. We're fighting for everyone."

Many strikers raised the idea, both from the stage and informally, of a national labor march in Detroit in support of all striking workers. No date has yet been set for such an action.

The strikers were joined by small groups of workers from around the country. Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers marched from their national convention at a hotel in downtown Detroit to join the demonstration. Grain millers, who had heard a report on the fight at a recent regional conference, came in from Battle Creek, Michigan, and London, Ontario. There were small groups of pressmen from around the country who had come in to support the strike. At least one United Auto Workers member who had been part of the Caterpillar strike was on hand.

In the week before July 13 the strikers stepped up their activity. They held expanded pickets in front of editorial offices and distribution centers. They carried out protests in front of scabs' homes and at a softball game between scabs and a major advertising agency. At a Sterling Heights City Council meeting 100 strikers protested the continued police harassment.

On July 12, facing a federal court injunction, the six striking unions signed an binding agreement demanded by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The arrangement says strikers must not "restrain, threaten or coerce replacement workers or any employees of Detroit Newspapers, Detroit Free Press or The Detroit News because they choose to cross a picket line."

This action against the unionists comes as the NLRB hearings on unfair labor practice charges against the companies drag on. After a July 11 hearing the proceeding were adjourned until July 29. The charges were brought early in the strike.

Strikers expressed a determination to hang tough and continue their fight. Andy Holt, a Newspaper Guild member, said, "Can you imagine working the next 20 or 30 years without a union? I'd rather stay out here than go back under those conditions."

The strikers are keeping up their picket lines. They picket street hawkers of the scab papers on Sundays, the most important newspaper edition of the week. The unions' speakers bureau sends strikers across the country, wherever they can get an invitation, to explain the fight and win support.

The strikers' spirits have been buoyed by acts of solidarity from other workers. United Auto Workers Union Local 160 reported they have raised \$60,000 for the strikers and challenged other locals to do the same. Ontario grain millers have taken pledges and guarantee \$280 a month to help a striking family.

DeSmet, summing up what many strikers felt, explained, "On July 13, 1995, we didn't just get a picket sign. We got the freedom to stand up, speak out, and fight back. That is a freedom I'm not willing to give up."

John Sarge is a member of UAW Local 900. Doug Douthat is a member of UAW Local 247 and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 12th District.

Women miners plan fight for jobs

BY NANCY BOYASKO
AND ALYSON KENNEDY

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — More than 100 women miners and their supporters gathered here June 21-23 for the 18th National Conference of Women Miners and Supporters sponsored by the Coal Employment Project (CEP). The conference was co-hosted by the Alabama Women Miners Support Group (AWMSG) and endorsed by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

Conference participants — who came from across the United States and as far away as Belgium, Canada and Peru — included laid off and working UMWA coal miners, five miners from Tennessee who are members of the International Chemical Workers Union, and several women looking for their first job in the mines.

Rita Lewellyn, a member of UMWA Local 1702 in northern West Virginia, was one of a number of women attending their first conference. "I thought the whole conference was fantastic," she said, "I learned so much at the seminars; I like the strategic plan."

The "Targeting for Jobs — Five Year Strategic Plan" workshop noted the fact that the CEP, founded in 1977, grew out of the fight to win jobs for women in the coal mines. As a result of a sex discrimination complaint that affected 153 coal companies, women miners went from being virtually nonexistent to 4 percent of the workforce by the late 1980s. Today this figure has dropped to less than 1 percent.

The strategic plan document explained, "In the last few years there has been some limited hiring at union and non-union mines in several areas of the country. Indications are that few, if any, women are being hired for these openings." It was reported in the workshop that over the last year CEP activists have challenged the discriminatory hiring practices at a union mine in southern West Virginia, in Eastern Kentucky and in Southwestern Pennsylvania, but no women were hired at these mines.

Building on efforts already underway in several coal field areas, participants approved a nationwide "on target for jobs" campaign "targeting union and nonunion mines that refuse to hire women." The five-year plan also projects developing more and stronger local women miners support groups.

Fight for jobs, safety in mines

More than 60 women responded when AWMSG placed an ad in area papers the week before the conference, soliciting a response from women who want to fight for jobs in the mines. Two attended sessions of the conference and others came by to get more information on the fight for jobs.

Discussion on how to fight for mining

jobs was also at the center of two workshops held on affirmative action. There conference participants received information on how they could file government complaints against coal companies that are passing over women in their hiring.

At a workshop on black lung and retirement, participants reported that only 4 percent of those applying for benefits receive compensation before appeals. The workshop on coal mine safety and health discussed company attempts to further erode workplace health and safety. Some companies have implemented bonus programs or disciplinary schemes to discourage miners from reporting accidents. At one mine, workers are resisting by reporting all accidents, down to the smallest scratch.

Conference participants toured the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute on June 22.

Among the keynote speakers who addressed the June 21 and June 22 evening conference sessions were UMWA International vice president Jerry Jones and UMWA District 20 president John Stewart. Carol Zippert, co-publisher of the *Greene County Democrat* of Alabama, spoke defending affirmative action and denouncing the burning of Black churches across the south.

Special guests Hermelinda Campos and Janet Barzola from the National Committee of Women in Mining Communities of Peru also spoke at the Saturday evening program. They described the impact privatization of the mines has had on mining communities in Peru and reported on the resistance beginning to develop.

McDonnell Douglas striker Lou Gene Hart addressed the conference on behalf of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 837 and set up a display on the strike for conference participants. Hart came with her sister, who is a coal miner.

Three young women, organizers for the United Farm Workers Union, set up a display to win support for the Quincy Farms mushroom workers in Florida.

A member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union amalgamated Local 4-227 in Houston, Patti Iiyama, brought greetings to the conference on behalf of the locked out Crown Oil workers.

At the Sunday morning plenary session of the conference greetings were sent to the McDonnell Douglas strikers, the locked out members of OCAW Local 4-227, the United Farm Workers members at Quincy Farms, and the National Committee of Women in Mining Communities in Peru.

The plenary session adopted a resolution reaffirming CEP's support and defense of affirmative action. Participants also adopted resolutions proposing to the UMWA nego-



Women who fought their way into mines in 1980s are smaller percent of workforce today.

tiating team a return to royalty payments based on tonnage instead of man-hours at mines that produce coal. Royalty payments fund the UMWA health and retirement programs.

Discussion at the business session of the conference centered on the strategic plan and the important role the CEP as an independent organization that has supported the UMWA has played over the years. More than 15 participants addressed the conference in this discussion. Evelyn Luna, a Navajo miner, explained that she still sometimes faces harassment from co-workers and the support of the CEP has been crucial to her continuing work on the job and in the union.

OCAW member Iiyama spoke at the business session expressing appreciation for the discussion on the fight for affirmative action and for women's rights. In April she participated in the 17th congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) held in Havana, Cuba. She set up a photo display of the trip and invited activists at the conference to attend the international conference on the world economic crisis in Cuba in August 1997.

Many members of CEP have been long time supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Curtis recently won release on parole to Illinois. Twenty-six participants signed a letter congratulating him on his release and welcoming him back to the struggle.

Conference participants elected four new members to the board of directors, elected new officers, and scheduled next year's conference to be held in Alberta, Canada.

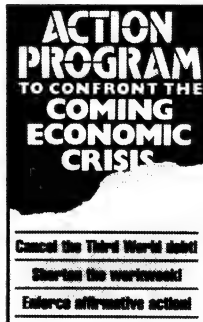
Alyson Kennedy a member of UMWA Local 1928 works at Jim Walter #3 mine in Adger, Alabama. Nancy Boyasko a member of UMWA Local 1867 is a laid off mine construction worker. Both are members of the Alabama Women Miners Support Group. Mary Zins from Morgantown, West Virginia, contributed to this article.

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Threats of intervention in Yugoslavia

Continued from front page

sanctions on Serbia if Karadzic remains in his post.

Holbrooke also met with Croatian president Franjo Tudjman, after which he described the situation in the Balkans as a "moment of very serious challenge."

The *Financial Times* of London reports that Paris has suggested the possibility of a "NATO-led commando raid to arrest the Bosnian Serb leaders." French defense minister Charles Million told a press conference July 14 that Paris planned to ask the United Nations Security Council to give NATO forces more explicit authorization to arrest Karadzic and Mladic, as well as others indicted on charges of war crimes.

Former Swedish prime Minister Carl Bildt, the chief international negotiator in Bosnia, recently came to the conclusion that a "military snatch" of Karadzic was necessary, according to the *New York Times*.

Other imperialist government officials expressed hesitations. "For some strange reason, Karadzic is still very popular and his removal could strengthen the SDS by making a martyr," one unnamed government official told the *Financial Times*. British foreign secretary Malcolm Rifkind said any military action was a decision for NATO commanders on the ground, who would have to assess the risk of taking on heavily armed bodyguards.

"Give us the order, and we'll do it," Gen. William Nash, commander of Washington's military operations in Bosnia, reportedly said in a meeting with U.S. secretary of commerce Michael Kantor.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns warned Karadzic's forces July 17 against any attempt to retaliate if the arrest warrants are carried out. "They should not fool themselves," he declared. The NATO forces "will take whatever steps are necessary to protect their own troops and police trainers."

The *New York Times* reported, however, that given the upcoming U.S. presidential election, the Clinton administration hopes to "avoid American casualties or a wholesale unraveling of the Bosnian peace effort — clear risks of a military action."

Alex Ivanko, a UN spokesperson, said the police chief in the city of Pale warned of wide retaliation against the NATO troops if there was an attempt to arrest Karadzic.

A recent military probe by Washington led to Belgrade-backed Serb forces threatening to fire on U.S. helicopters. The helicopters flew over a military compound July 5 at Han Pijesak in eastern Bosnia, as U.S. troops prepared to investigate reports of tanks and infantry fighting vehicles being moved into the Bosnian Serb military headquarters.

U.S. forces then deployed about 20 warplanes and helicopters and some 20 armored personnel carriers, while setting up a command post in the area. When a British officer escorted by U.S. soldiers entered the compound on July 6, about 200 civilians waving Serbian flags pounded on the Humvees while others blocked roads into the village.

— CALENDAR —

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Hear Johanna Tablada de la Torre, Third Secretary of the Cuban Interests Section. Sat., July 27, 7 p.m. *El Yunque Bookstore, 2556 W. Fullerton. Donation: \$5. For more information, call the Chicago Cuba Coalition at (312) 633-0527.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Casa de las Americas Invites You to Celebrate the Anniversary of the July 26 Attack on Moncada. Sat., July 27, 9 p.m. Music and Dance with D.J. "Power Serge." *Donation \$10. At 33 W. 14th St. (between 5th and 6th Aves.). For more information call (212) 675-2584.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

26th of July Celebration. Commemorating the 43rd anniversary of the attack against the Moncada military garrison by fighters of the July 26 Movement in Cuba. Hear: Félix Wilson, deputy chief of the Cuban Interests Section, sponsored by D.C. "Hands Off Cuba" Coalition. Fri., July 26, 7:30 p.m. *Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave., N.W. (entrance on Decatur Pl; near Dupont Circle metro). Donation: \$3. For more information, call (202) 452-5966.*

"It was a very aggressive response on our part, I'll grant that," said Lieut. Gen. William Carter, chief of staff of the NATO force in Bosnia. "But we don't intend to tolerate any threats against us," he added.

Meanwhile, conditions in Yugoslavia continue to deteriorate. Wages are paid months late, if at all. The average wage for rural or urban workers in Serbia is about \$100 a month, an 80 percent drop in the last decade.

Union leaders, who led a series of strikes earlier this year, threatened the Serbian re-

gime with mass protests if it does not increase wages and create new jobs by September. On May 13 more than 10,000 workers marched in Nis, Yugoslavia, demanding back pay and work.

Imperialism's prospects for reestablishing capitalist property relations in Yugoslavia appear grim. "Foreign companies come in here, take one look at what is going on and pack up and leave," one official discussing unrest in Kosovo told the *New York Times*. "We don't even bring in trade delegations now."

In Puerto Rico: 'We are a nation'

Continued from front page

slogans reflecting pro-independence sentiments.

The PPDs candidate for governor in the November elections, Héctor Luis Acevedo, was among those who led the march.

Ricardo Alegría, a well known cultural anthropologist and one of the main organizers of the march, told the demonstrators that by participating in this march, "we accept that we maintain ideological and political differences, but we are united by our love of Puerto Rico, which we accept as our nation."

"The current government of Rosselló has tried by every means to bring statehood," Martín Alvarado Martínez, 72, of Carolina commented.

"The march is a response," Martínez says that the Puerto Rican people have rejected independence in part because, "Puerto Ricans with U.S. citizenship believe they have an advantage" to travel freely and work in the United States.

"Even some of my pro-statehood friends came to the march," Pablo Burgos told the Puerto Rican daily *El Nuevo Día*, "since it has nothing to do with independence but with being Puerto Rican."

"We don't want statehood," Crysaida Rodríguez, 16, of Caguas told the *Militant*. She attended the march to show support for the PPD candidate of Caguas. Rodríguez also said she supported independence.

"At this march we are letting the governors [at the NGA] know that we defend our identity," 18-year-old Loira Acosta said. "We defend our Puerto Rican identity with the Puerto Rican flag, and no other flag."

This sentiment was not shared by a similar number of counter demonstrators at the

pro-statehood "Reaffirmation of Citizenship" rally sponsored by the other main capitalist party, the New Progressive Party (PNP). Marchers displayed banners portraying both the U.S. and Puerto Rican flags and waved many U.S. flags.

Governor Rosselló, the PNP candidate running for re-election, spoke at the demonstration with various US governors. When asked by *El Nuevo Día* if they attended the demonstration in a support of statehood, Florida governor Lawton Chiles repounded, "We support what Rosselló supports."

More than 25,000 supporters of Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) marched separately in Fajardo for national independence.

"We salute the U.S. people and we say that the PIP admires them, they forged a free nation," David Noriega, PIP candidate for governor, told the crowd in his message to the U.S. governors. But "if you are incapable of stopping the burnings of the evangelical churches

The trade magazine *Institutional Investor* recently ranked Yugoslavia at 129 out of 137 countries as a prospect for international investment.

"The Government has two ways left to manage the deficit," said Dragoslav Avramovic, a proponent of capitalist reform measures who was recently fired from his job as governor of the central bank. "Either print more money or stop paying the bills. I am not sure which is worse. The Government has stopped, for now, paying its bills, but we are running into trouble."

in black communities in your states, and you support laws that discriminate against the children of immigrants, you do not have the moral authority to make decisions about Puerto Rico."

Rough seas did not stop a fleet of thirty boats of fishermen and others from Fajardo and the island of Vieques from demonstrating against the U.S. Navy's use of their island for military exercises. All the boats carried the Puerto Rican and Vieques flags and some carried banners demanding "Stop the bombing in Vieques."

Since the 1950s the U.S. Navy has occupied two-thirds of the island and carried out military operations, including bombardment, on and around Vieques, driving fishermen from the fishing grounds near the island.

A counter flotilla of jet skis that organized by Senator Valentin favoring statehood, as well as a flotilla of Cubans residing on the island welcoming the governors, were canceled due to inclement weather.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Equal Rights for Immigrants. Panel discussion with activists involved in building the October 12 March in Washington, D.C. Fri., July 26, 7:30 p.m. 214-16 Avenue A. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 328-1501.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Class Struggle in Iran Today — Why U.S. Hostility toward Tehran Persists. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, recently returned from Iran,

co-author of introduction of book *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920, First Congress of the Peoples of the East*. Sat., July 27, 7:30 p.m. *Donation \$4. 1930 18th St. N.W. #3 (18th and Florida N.W., entrance on Florida). Tel: (202) 387-2185.*

The Russian Revolution: When the Working Class and National Liberation Movements Converged. Speaker Ma-mud Shirvani. A film of the 1920 Congress of the Peoples of the East will also make its Washington, D.C. premiere. Sun., July 28, 11 a.m. 1930 18th St. N.W. #3 (18th and Florida N.W., entrance on Florida). *Donation: \$2. Tel: (202) 387-2185.*

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Oops — Treasury Secretary

Rubin, in a speech on the American record in international affairs, inadvertently boasted of "the defeat of capitalism."

Why would that be? — Two polls found that the more Canadians earn, the more they trust the justice system. Quebecois trusted the courts the least.

Mind your manners — Anticipating a settlement, a striking unionist inquired of Miss Manners how to deal with those who crossed the picket line to return to work — how, without being rude, make clear that all is not forgotten and forgiven.

Miss Manner recommended impeccably correct coldness and, as the ultimate put-down, addressing them by titles and surnames.

Sharp cookies — Two companies have a lock on the cookies which are key to Girl Scout operating budgets. Price cutting on the \$2.50-a-box cookies is verboten, but increases are OK. In Jackson County, Georgia, Ashleigh Bratek, 8, sold 2,552 boxes. She was denied the computer she thought she had won when officials learned she sold some at the basic price instead of the \$2.75 the council had set. Her family is filing an anti-trust suit.

They don't have money to burn — The 1969 DC-9 ValuJet that went down did not have flame-retardant cabin materials required on passenger planes built since 1990. Older passenger planes don't have to meet this standard unless their interiors are completely refurbished. More than half of them don't include flame retardant materials. The commonly used plastic trim can burn three times faster than newer materials.

She thought it was arts and crafts — Talk-show host Kathie Lee Gifford insisted she knew nothing of the superexploitation of

workers at sweatshops turning out her products. Wendy Diaz, 15, who worked for one of Gifford's Honduran suppliers, said she and others, some as young as 12, worked 13 hours a day for 31 cents an hour. She added they suffered physical abuse and sexual harassment.

Why bother, they know what side the boss is on — Martin Kettle, a columnist for the British *Guardian*, observes: "...here's a funny thing. Many of the British journalists who write regularly about Northern Ireland go there very rarely indeed, if they go there at all."

Jury lets killer cop off the hook in California

BY NORTON SANDLER

SAN JOSÉ, California — Concurring with the pleadings of a deputy district attorney, a grand jury in this city refused on June 25 to indict Santa Clara County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Langley for the killing of Gustavo Soto Mesa.

Mesa was gunned down by Langley on March 2 following a car chase. The cop claims his gun accidentally discharged as he and Mesa fell to the ground moments after Mesa's van crashed into a fire truck and ambulance. Eyewitnesses from the neighborhood testified that the cop shot Mesa in the back from several feet away.

In Santa Clara County, all killings by the police are taken to a grand jury to decide if the cop should be indicted. In spite of numerous killings, no cops have been indicted in recent years.

Outrage over the Soto Mesa shooting and the previous cases where cops were exonerated has resulted in the formation of the Human Rights Defense Committee. This group has organized several protests including a demonstration of some 300 on March 16. Since then the group, which meets weekly, has carried out a range of activities including holding community forums. Several people who participate in the Human Rights Defense Committee meetings have had relatives killed by area cops.

Hoping to blow off some steam and convince the broader public that the killing was indeed accidental, District Attorney George Kennedy took the highly unusual step of hav-

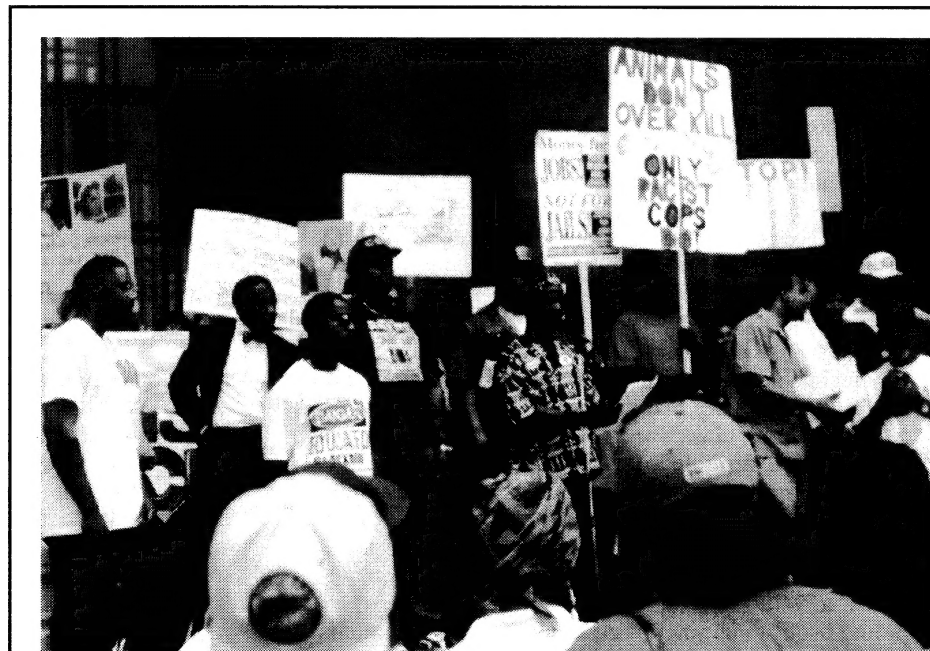
ing the grand jury's proceedings opened to the public. His assistant Deputy District Attorney Sanderson conducted the hearing. No judge is present, only the grand jurors. No Latinos served on this 18-members jury panel in a county with a substantial Latino population. Fifteen jury members were white, one was Black, and two were Asian.

Among those attending the proceedings were Emilio Diaz and Cornelius Hall. Diaz's brother, Art, was run over and killed by a Santa Clara County Deputy in 1994. The cops claim Art Diaz ran in front of their car when they were chasing him. Emilio Diaz said he and supporters have been meeting every week since his brother was killed.

"Even the Highway Patrol says it couldn't have happened the way the cops claimed," Diaz explained. Since the protests around the Soto Mesa case have grown, Diaz added, "the district attorney has said he will take Art's case to a coroner's inquest."

Hall's son, Jerrold, was killed by a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) cop in 1992. The cops said a radio had been stolen on the train allegedly by a young Black man. "My son was not a known felon, he was unarmed, he had no weapon. There was no justification for shooting him," Hall emphasized. Hall has a civil suit pending against the cops that is scheduled to go to trial later this year.

At the grand jury hearing, cop Langley testified he heard a "popping sound" as he and Soto Mesa allegedly were falling to the ground. He claimed he didn't realize until later that Soto Mesa had been shot by his



Militant/Sandi Sherman

Some 500 people marched in Pittsburgh June 29 protesting police brutality and demanding justice for Jonny Gammage, killed by cops last October. Several days before the protest, a Pittsburgh cop shot and killed two other Black men.

gun. In spite of the blood gushing from Soto Mesa's head, Langley handcuffed him. Langley claimed he has fired 800 to 1000 rounds at the practice range but had never heard a popping sound like the one from his gun.

Patricia Silva witnessed the shooting from her living room window some 15 feet away. She testified that she heard Langley say, "Stop or I will sh..." then he shot Soto Mesa and again said, "Stop or I will shoot," and then handcuffed Soto Mesa. Silva said the exploding gun made a "loud sound." Her testimony was corroborated by two additional Latino witnesses.

At the conclusion of the hearing

Sanderson told the grand jury, "It would be in my opinion inappropriate to find an indictment in this case." An hour and half later the grand jury returned with a decision.

"This is the justice we have," said Pablo Soto, the father of Gustavo Soto Mesa. Human Rights Defense Committee activist Gary Woods stated, "The grand jury is a biased private court of the district attorney, especially when it comes to investigating police officers."

"We're going to continue fighting until they treat people like human beings, not animals," added committee leader Rachel Perez.

200 protest killing of Maori by New Zealand police

BY ANNALUCIA VERMUNT

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — "He was hunted like an animal, shot like an animal and left in a paddock for the night. All the police wanted him for was questioning — and we will never forgive the police for that, never." These were the words of Peter Thompson, speaking to 200 people at the funeral of his son-in-law, Terence Thompson.

Terence Thompson was shot and killed by police June 24 after being found in an orchard where he had been living in a bivouac in the ground for several days. The 43-year-old Maori was hit by a single bullet in the chest fired by a police marksman.

Thompson had been the subject of a nine-week police and army manhunt following the shooting of a police constable in the East Coast city of Hastings April 21. The cops alleged Thompson often drove a car used at the constable's shooting, although he was never formally cited as a suspect during this time.

The hunt for Thompson involved 80 cops, including elite units armed with submachine guns and sniper rifles. They raided houses and conducted an extensive ground search throughout the predominately rural region and several times used a portable battering ram known as "the key" to enter houses.

Police and army helicopters flew armed cops into remote settlements, and on one occasion dropped camouflaged police snipers onto cliffs to cover a search of a truck and caravan belonging to a friend of Thompson. "We have had our doors kicked in by masked men and our families have been searched. Our children have been taken from

their beds at gunpoint," said resident John Black.

Thompson's family had earlier expressed fears for his safety if he fell into the hands of the police. At a meeting at the Rongmaraeroa Marae April 28, they publicly called on the police to contact them when Thompson was found to allow them to help bring him out of hiding unharmed.

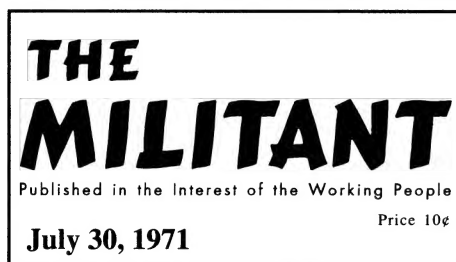
"We told the police from the outset that we wanted to be brought in the moment they had a sighting of Terence so that we could get him into negotiations with the police," said his uncle, Harry McGregor, after Thompson's death. "The police went out there and shot him, this is bloody revenge. Terence never had a chance."

Terence Thompson's death highlights an escalating number of fatal shootings by police in recent months. The 16th person to be shot dead by police since 1941, Thompson was the third person to be killed in the last ten months, with a fourth severely wounded after a police standoff in July last year. Another man, Matthew Innes, was suffocated to death in the back of a police car on his way to be admitted to a psychiatric hospital in 1994. No charges have been filed against the police in these cases.

At the funeral, Thompson's family vowed to fight to clear his name. "In the eyes of the law of the land, he is innocent until proven guilty, so the fight is now in our hands" said Peter Thompson. "We are going to fire the questions at the police now and we want plain facts."

Annalucia Vermunt is a member of the Engineers Union in Auckland.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



On July 16-18, the 123rd anniversary of the first women's rights conference, held in Seneca Falls, N.Y., more than 1,000 women gathered in New York City to work out a united plan of action aimed at winning total repeal of all laws restricting the right of women to abortion.

Participation in the conference from every area of the country and every sector of society indicated the tremendous breadth of potential support around the issue of repeal of abortion laws.

There were old and young women, Black, Chicana, Asian-American and Puerto Rican women, working women, professional women, gay women, welfare women, church women, and women from the military. The University of Tennessee student government sent six sisters to the conference and paid their way. Several groups had brought their own banners and hung them around the auditorium — "New Haven Women's Liberation," "Grand Rapids, Michigan — Women Unite," and "University of California, Berkeley Female Liberation."

The Third World women's workshop of about 45 women voted unanimously in favor of the national abortion campaign and discussed ways of reaching Black, Chicana, Puerto Rican, Asian-American and Native American women. The workshop recom-

mended that literature issued by the national abortion campaign should be printed in Spanish and should emphasize the involvement of Third World women.



July 27, 1946

DETROIT, July 16 — Answering the call of the United Automobile Workers for a nationwide protest against rising prices, more than 100,000 workers jammed Cadillac Square and flowed into the adjoining streets this afternoon in the largest mass rally in Detroit's history. Although the demonstration was called for 5 p.m., every inch of available space in Cadillac Square was filled an hour before schedule.

This rally was unique in that every section of labor was represented both in the crowd and on the speakers' platform. The UAW-CIO naturally predominated in this auto city but there was a huge outpouring workers from the other CIO unions, from the AFL, Railroad Brotherhood, Mechanics Educational Society, Foremen's Association, not to mention more than 40 civic and veteran groups.

Tens of thousands were kept from Cadillac Square by the hostile police, who closed off various cross streets in the immediate vicinity. The capitalist press had been playing down the demonstration, using every device to prevent a large attendance.

Several hundred workers picketed the Hudson Department Store with signs reading: "Hudson Charges the Highest Prices — Pays The Lowest Wages."

Wall Street sharks get the jitters

"The growing instability on Wall Street is a symptom of the profound crisis of capital accumulation infecting the entire body of the world imperialist system. Another crash cannot be prevented by new regulations aimed at altering the habits of operators on the stock, bond, and options markets: bans on computer-assisted 'program' trading, measures to shut down markets if fluctuations become too stormy, stricter credit regulations, or the myriad other 'reforms' much discussed in the big-business press in the wake of October 19 [1987]. Nor can the banking system be sealed from the blows it will receive."

—From "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold,"
Resolution adopted by the August 1988
Socialist Workers Party convention and published
in the magazine New International no. 10.

The sharks on Wall Street have become afraid again. They have begun to lose confidence once more in their ability to shore up declining profit rates. That's what's behind the plunge in the stock market that occurred in mid July.

The 1987 crash — where financial speculators lost \$500 billion in one day — signaled an acceleration of the downward slide of the curve of capitalist development that began in the early 1970s after the long post-World War II economic expansion. Since the early 1990s the capitalist system has entered a worldwide depression.

So long as capitalism exists, and despite ceaseless ups and downs in the business cycle, these depression conditions with their wearing deflationary bias can not be reversed unless the most powerful ruling classes in North America, Europe, and Asia and the Pacific are able to deal major defeats to the working class and labor movement and, through sharpening competition and trade battles, destroy masses of commodities and capital. The inevitable companion of such an outcome would be devastating financial collapse, growing fascist movements, and world war.

Declining profit rates worldwide are intensifying capitalist competition for markets, sources for raw materials, and domination of low-wage "export platforms" in the semicolonial world. Many capitalists have slashed prices to near bankruptcy to push their rivals to the wall.

Meanwhile, a bubble has built up as speculators pour billions into inflated stock and bond markets in their ceaseless quest for higher returns. As the price tag on these pieces of paper soars — with no basis in increasing production of real

values — they become another point of instability for the capitalist system that threatens to come crashing down.

In the United States since the late 1980s "downsizing" and "re-engineering" have been the code words under which the super-rich owners of industry and the banks waged a ruthless cost-cutting drive. They have been laying off middle managers, technicians, and office employees, as well as industrial workers; simplifying production and administrative routines through computerization; and shutting down obsolete plants and equipment and dumping less profitable divisions.

But their downsizing and computerization has hit its limits. General Motors, Chrysler, and other firms — especially consumer companies — are closing plants and laying off workers because they can't sell enough products since the purchasing power of millions of workers has continued to decline. As they become smaller and "leaner" these corporations are weaker, not more powerful. And capitalist accumulation of the mass of surplus value, produced by the sweat and blood of the workers and expropriated by the bosses, slows down.

In addition, investments in new computer equipment have decelerated, since the hoped-for productivity gains have not measured up to expectations. The recent dramatic drop of prices of computer stocks is a reflection of this.

It's more and more apparent that the only target the capitalist rulers have left to go after in order to reverse the decline in their profits is labor. They need a qualitative acceleration of their unrelenting warfare on wages, working conditions, social programs, and the very humanity of the working class.

In western Europe, downsizing and frontal assaults on the social wage occur as double-digit unemployment has spread in many capitalist powers. But this engenders social explosions of a magnitude the bosses don't look forward to, as the wave of strikes and other labor protests in Germany, France, and elsewhere over the last year show.

Violent shifts in the class struggle are on the horizon. This raises the stakes for building communist parties now — before new social explosions erupt — capable of leading the working people to wrest power from the hands of the wealthy minority and prevent fascist victories and world war imperialism has in store for humanity.

As part of the process of building such proletarian parties, it is essential to win more workers to the idea of reading, thinking, and acting for themselves. Studying and selling *New International* no. 10 should be high on the agenda right now.

Independence for Puerto Rico!

The following statement was issued July 13 by James Harris and Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice president.

Our campaign joins with and supports those marching July 14 in Puerto Rico and other actions to demand an end to Washington's colonial domination of Puerto Rico.

The Puerto Rican people are subject to U.S. laws that they have no equal hand in making. They are subject to U.S. courts over which they exercise no control. They face racist discrimination from the police, the courts, and by employers. Puerto Rican youth can be drafted into an army that enforces the national subjugation of their own nation.

The unemployment rate on the island is almost three times that in the United States while per capita income is about one third that in the U.S. The economy is organized to serve U.S.

companies. An island rich in resources imports the majority of its food. Those are colonial conditions.

Our campaign explains to working people and youth in the United States that we have a enormous stake in fighting to free Puerto Rico, because the oppression of Puerto Rico is used by the rulers to divide the working class within the United States in the same way they use racism and anti-immigrant propaganda to justify second class status for layers of the working class.

A fighting movement for self determination and the independence of Puerto Rico is an aid to the fight to push back the assault on the rights of working people in the United States as well.

Our campaign stands side by side with the Puerto Rican struggle to say: Independence and sovereignty for Puerto Rico! Free the political prisoners! Close the military bases!

British troops out of Ireland

Continued from front page

of the country by British imperialism.

While painting itself as peace broker in hopes of gaining a greater foothold for U.S. capital in Ireland, the Clinton administration has stepped up the jailing and deportation of freedom fighters such as Jimmy Smyth, who escaped with 37 others from the notorious H-Block wing of Maze prison near Belfast in 1983. We call on every candidate in the U.S. elections to condemn these moves.

Our campaign salutes the protests in Ireland to condemn the rightist marches by the pro-British Orange Order through Nationalist communities, the complicity of the RUC in the anti-Catholic violence, and the refusal of London to allow Irish freedom fighters in Sinn Fein into the multiparty talks under way on the future of the six counties.

The resistance to these assaults and refusal to bend the knee to the British masters—whose declining empire can hardly hold together the United Kingdom—deserves the support of fighters everywhere.

We join with demonstrations and actions here in the United States. We urge workers, youth, and democratic-minded people to organize speak-outs, picketlines, and other activities to press these demands as widely as possible. The labor movement must join these protests, since doing so will weaken the common enemy of the Irish freedom struggle and the working class: U.S. and British imperialism.

Ireland must be free. This is the unconditional stand of tens

of thousands who have taken to the streets, joined protest actions, and given their lives in the struggle to rid the country of the British occupiers. The oppression of Ireland was central to the rise of Britain as a imperialist power. British capitalists have reaped untold profits off their rule over the country. They have used anti-Irish sentiments to divide and weaken the working class in Britain.

The British oppressors have created a monster in Northern Ireland. In order to maintain their rule over the past decades they have put in place a range of repressive forces —the RUC, the Orange Order, and rightist gangs — that are part of a whole social setup designed to terrorize those seeking to fight against the unjust system and to perpetuate and reinforce discrimination against Catholics.

The privileges handed out to Protestants have developed a social caste that includes layers of working people who see their interests not with other workers who are Catholic, but with their masters in London. Violence by these forces will continue, which is why denying them any official backing by the RUC and British troops is so crucial to Irish patriots' ability to countermobilize against them.

Self-determination for Ireland can be advanced by building solidarity with the struggle around the world. Though they try to keep the face of strong powers, the imperialists can be pushed back by a determined fight. British troops out of Ireland! Disband the RUC! End Washington's harassment and deportation of Irish freedom fighters! For a united and free Ireland!

People looking for revolution

Continued from Page 6

ernment but for the fight for a workers and farmers government that will open the road to state power for the workers and their self-transformation in the process — just like the toilers in Russia and Cuba did. Those who go out to protest Buchanan, like the youth in Lexington, are among the best candidates to be attracted to our proletarian politics. Those are the people we orient to."

Much of the discussion focused on the Cuban revolution. Jeffrey Totten, a 35-year-old textile worker from North Carolina, asked in one of the meetings, "Why is Cuba so important? ... I know the U.S. has escalated the economic blockade, but why so much emphasis on Cuba?"

Clint Ivie, a 24-year-old auto worker from Atlanta, who was also attending his first socialist conference, responded, "Cuba shows that workers can take power. That socialism works." Ivie had recently joined the YS after meeting socialist workers on the job.

Working-class activity and education

A number of political activists who are not members of the socialist movement were at the conference for their first time. Like many other participants, they renewed or deepened their commitment to be involved in social struggles.

Paul Burns, 34, a government worker from Washington, D.C., first heard about the socialist conference at the Gay Pride march in New York the weekend before the gathering at Oberlin. There he met YS members who were carrying a banner and selling pamphlets. While there he also found out about the trip to Cuba with the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange from activists in the local committee. Burns then called the Pathfinder bookstore in Washington, D.C., and was invited to a July 4 barbecue, where he met three people from Iceland who were on their way to Oberlin. "I thought that sounds really cool and I decided to go," he said.

Ramon Muñoz, 19, was also attending his first socialist conference. "I'm a Mechista [a member of the Chicano rights group MEChA]," he said. "To know your identity is to know who you are."

Muñoz first heard about the upcoming Cuba youth exchange from an article in *Voz Fronteriza*, a Chicano paper published in California. "I met the Young Socialists at a Youth Exchange meeting in San Diego," he said. "That's how I got interested in coming to Oberlin." Muñoz began preparing for the trip to Cuba by reading books by Ernesto Che Guevara and Fidel Castro and articles in the *Militant*. "I can't believe I never read a speech by Fidel Castro before. I thought Cuba was a different trip that had nothing to do with the Chicano struggle. Now it's the first thing I read."

Muñoz has recently participated in *La Marcha*, a demonstration through California to defend affirmative action and immigrant rights. As soon as he gets back from Cuba he's planning to rejoin the march that will culminate with protests around these social issues in San Diego during the Republican Party convention.

About two dozen other participants at the conference were also getting ready for the trip to Cuba. "The biggest reason for coming was because I'm going to Cuba and I wanted to learn more about the revolution and meet others who are going," said Calen Frolkis, a 17-year-old student from Cleveland. "Now I have a better idea what the Cuban revolution means."

Frolkis, like many others at the conference, said her interest was piqued to study more the lessons of the working-class movement. "Now I want to read *The Long View of History*, *The History of the Russian Revolution* and on, and on," she said. Frolkis also said she plans to join others in report-back meetings to share her experiences from the trip and help broaden opposition to Washington's economic war on the Cuban people.

Several people who came to the conference for the first time also decided to get more involved in picket lines and other working-class struggles. A group of youth from Illinois and Wisconsin area are now on their way to St. Louis, Missouri, to join the picket lines of machinists on strike against McDonnell Douglas. "It's a pretty big strike," said Rajeev Prasad, a student in Milwaukee who is in Chicago for the summer. "So I wanted to see it, talk to the workers, get their perspective." Prasad joined the newly formed YS chapter in Chicago days after the conference.

6,000 NY hospital workers strike over takebacks

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

replacement workers hired for the duration of the strike. "We say to the scabs what you're doing is wrong and that they are just using you. When we go back you'll be

Paccar, owner of Kenworth, is demanding a contract with the Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) that would last until November 2002. Local press also report they want each worker to submit to a 90-day probation period. Some workers have over 30 years experience.

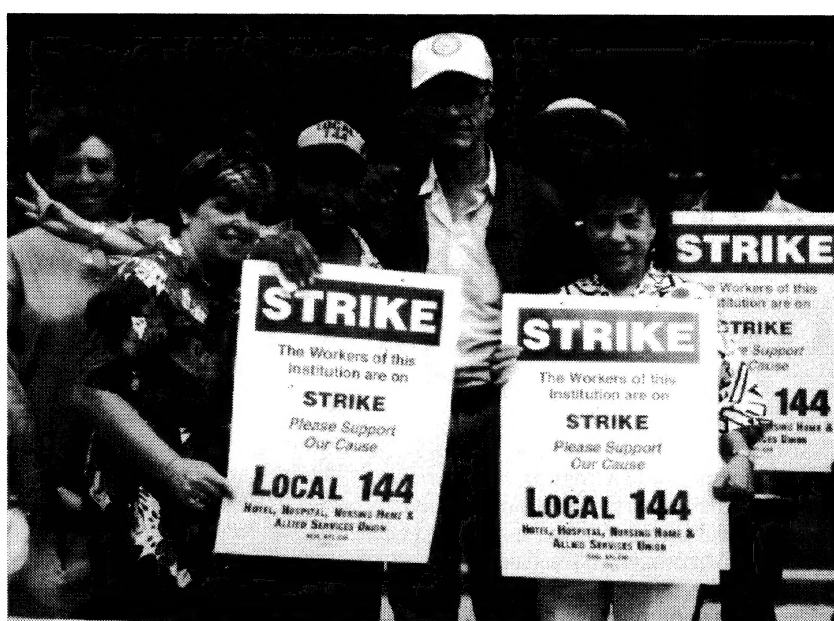
CAW Local 728 went on strike in August 1995 for a better pension plan and against company demands for more control over the workplace.

Paccar announced in April it would close the plant and shift production to its plants in the U.S. and Mexico. Picketing was called off the second week of June.

During eight months on the picket line strikers fought back against the closing threat. They demonstrated in Ste. Therese, Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec City and kept their fight front-page news.

April 26, the Quebec and Canadian governments announced each would contribute \$5 million in interest-free loans to modernize the plant. The QFL solidarity fund and Paccar promised \$30 million.

The Quebec Deputy Prime Minister said "Now, the main obstacle is the union." He said it would have to offer concessions. Earlier union officials pledged five years of labor peace. The *Toronto Globe and Mail* reported that only 500 of the 850 workers would go back to work under the proposed contract.



Striking health workers at Mary Immaculate hospital in Queens, N.Y.

Leonard Tucker

ON THE PICKET LINE

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

QUEENS, New York — "I'm willing to stay out as long as necessary," said an orderly picketing the Jamaica Hospital here. He was one of 6,000 orderlies, nurses' aides, and hospital clerks, members of Service Employees International Union Local 144, who walked off the job June 27. They are fighting demands by hospital management — the League of Voluntary Hospitals — for a contract that would slash vacation and sick time 50 percent, lower wages for new hires by 35 percent, and deny some pension payments. On July 3, management broke off negotiations after the union rejected this contract proposal.

Nurses' aides picketing Mary Immaculate in Jamaica and St. Joseph's hospital in Flushing report that workers' morale remains high two weeks into the strike. One striking nurse at Mary Immaculate said, "Management is keeping us out here [on the picket line]... and if we don't fight they will never stop."

Strikers report instances of police using force against the pickets. "The cops are for the protection of management interests, not us, not the hospital patients. When management is not around they are nice; when an administrator comes outside the cops tell us, 'Get up from the curb, no sitting on the sidewalk,'" one striker reported.

One young dietary assistant striking at Jamaica Hospital said another challenge facing the strikers is the

fired." Several strikers said they are concerned that patients are not receiving adequate care from undertrained and overworked replacements.

Postal workers fight privatization in Seattle

SEATTLE — Hundreds of postal workers and their supporters staged spirited picket lines at several post offices in the Puget Sound region June 19. In the largest action, more than 200 walked, chanted, and distributed informational leaflets at the Queen Anne Hill station.

They were protesting plans by management to privatize the postal services. Postmaster General Marvin Runyon has announced plans to let private companies run 10 Priority Mail centers. These actions were called by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the American Postal Workers Union.

Workers carried signs reading, "Don't let Profiteers Run Away With Your Service," "America Deserves First Class Service, and 'Keep your Post Office Public.'" They lined the sidewalk along the street, and many car drivers honked their horns in support. Popular chants included, "They say privatize, we say organize," and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Marvin Runyon's got to go!" Runyon has drawn the wrath of postal workers by cutting wages for new employees \$1 an hour and denying health-care insurance for 70,000 postal workers.

Bosses demand givebacks to reopen Quebec plant

STE. THERESE, Quebec — The fate of the strike-bound Kenworth truck assembly plant here remains front page news as management reveals sweeping concession demands.

The dispute follows a breakdown in talks over the 1996 wage agreement, but workers are agreed on the main issue. "Last year they promised us an hour off the working week," said Finn Brennan. "Now we want it." London Underground drivers currently work 38.5 hours a week, but are at work for at least 44 hours including unpaid breaks.

Three one-day strikes have taken place, halting up to 75 percent of London Underground trains. Nine further strike days have been announced. On July 10, members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT) voted by a five-to-one majority to join the strike.

Oil truckers press demands for safety

PHILADELPHIA — Some 30 members and supporters of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 8-397 picketed outside Sunoco's corporate headquarters here July 1. Local 8-397 represents some 700 drivers of oil tanker trucks who work for Sun, Shell, Hess, and other Pennsylvania and New Jersey refineries.

The pickets sought to bring to public attention Sun's demands for productivity increases in a new contract that pose a danger to public safety. "Sunoco wants to become

the ValJet of ground transportation," one sign warned. Another read, "Give us safety before SUNOCO gives you death." A flier distributed to passersby asked, "Do you want tank trucks loaded with 9,000 gallons of gasoline hustling around your community in order for the driver to reach a performance standard? We think not!"

According to chief steward John Zube, the union says drivers could only meet this quota by speeding and rushing through necessary safety checks. "This is not an issue of wages alone," Zube explained. "We won't be permitted to just slow down for safety and take a wage cut. Drivers who don't meet Sun's new standards would face disciplinary measures. This is what's happening throughout the industry. At Exxon there is a mandatory 50 hour week. If a worker misses the productivity standard twice in one month, they can be suspended for three days."

Jason Corley in New York; Scott Breen, member of International Association of Machinists Local 751A in Seattle; Monica Jones, member of CAW Local 728 in Ste. Therese; Martin Hill in London; and Pete Seidman, member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Philadelphia, contributed to this article.

— LETTERS —

Immigrants pay taxes too

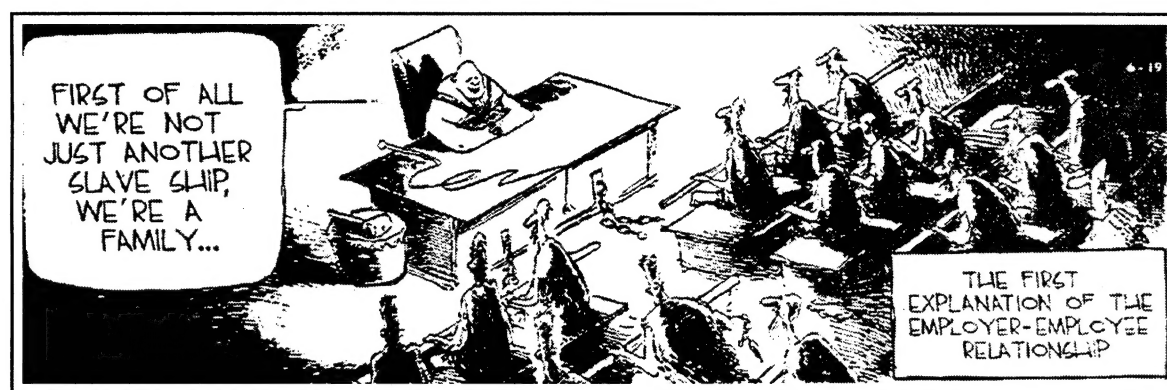
I have just now (July 7) managed to finish my June 24 issue, and I must say that reader Brian McGarity seems to be naive or misinformed. He says "Isn't allowing non-tax paying foreign nationals to work..." (Italics mine). Why does he think non-Americans do not pay American taxes?

Everyone who works in this country knows that loads of taxes are automatically taken out of every paycheck. The biggest such tax is the Social Security tax. Nobody in the income bracket of most *Militant* readers gets out of that one. (But big shots, after they've made the first \$62,000 or so per year, pay no more SS tax the rest of the year).

Most workers also have Federal income tax withheld from their pay, let alone state taxes, city or local taxes, and in some states (such as my state of Pennsylvania, and nearby New Jersey), unemployment taxes.

Even if a person failed to fill in a tax form (and pay a balance due the government, or get a refund), they still have plenty withheld for taxes. Mr. McGarity may not know it, but there is a special tax form for non-Americans who earn money from American sources. It's called Form 104 NR (for "non-resident"). It's roughly the same tax as U.S. citizens pay on the ubiquitous Form 1040, but somewhat higher.

Megan Arney devoted half a col-



umn in the same issue, to answering this man's letter, but she either did not address, or did not know, that non-Americans pay tax just like the rest of us. It may be a small point, but I'd like to set the record straight.

Amy Lowenstein
Yardley, Pennsylvania

Editors' note: We thank Lowenstein for her addition to Arney's reply. We would add a reminder that from the time of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels to today, the working-class position on taxes has been for a single, steeply graduated tax on income — with no taxes on workers, whatever country they were born in.

Justice for Irish workers

I am writing to your newspaper in the hope that you may further help me in my pursuit of justice in

this country for the ordinary working-class person.

My circumstances came about on March 18 this year when three local police officers entered by home to answer an allegation made by my neighbor that I had damaged some small bushes in his front garden. The officers barged into my home and assaulted me. I had just come out of the bath and had a towel on me which fell off during the assault and their efforts to handcuff me while I demanded an explanation for their actions. This was done in full view of my two children, ages four and six. I was then taken naked and handcuffed down my driveway in full view of my neighbors and taken to Staines Police station where I was subjected to all sorts of abuse and refused water for approximately 10 hours while the heating was on full.

The only charge brought against

me (which is fabricated) is criminal damage to garden property to the value of no more than £80. I go to trial on June 27.

A number of us Irish people have taken our cases to the streets in the form of pickets and so far we have picketed Downing St. and the Irish embassy on two occasions, April 23 and May 23. Our Embassy does absolutely nothing for Irish people in our situation. They won't answer phone calls and they refuse to answer recorded delivery mail. They will only cater for the business community. It's a scandal. The police, although obliged to do so by law, don't contact our Embassy when Irish people are arrested so there is no record of the injustice suffered by the Irish people and hence no data collection.

The Irish papers won't give us coverage of our pickets of the Irish embassy and so this great cover up

goes on. The *Irish World* and the *Irish Post* are gagged by our Embassy but we are gathering in numbers as the scandal of our Embassy is slowly being exposed.

I have only recently become of age in the whole area of the suffering of people and as such have taken an interest in the suffering of all working-class people. And it is through this interest that I have become a reader of your paper. I see that you cover the suffering of all people and you include, along with articles, photographs of pickets the world over.

If you want any information about our future plans I would welcome a call on 01784 886 005, or you can contact our main organizer Mr. Patrick Cullinane on 0181 204 2386.

We are determined people and we will not stop till we get justice, firstly for ourselves and secondly for all Irish working-class people who are suffering at hands of this unjust administration.

John Deegan
Middlesex, England

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Swedish rulers move to take bigger military, economic role in Europe

BY INGE HINNEMO

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — "There is a difference between swimming in water and trying to learn how to swim on dry land." This is how Swedish foreign minister Lena Hjelm-Wallén described the fact that Swedish troops for the first time had been put under NATO command in Yugoslavia.

In an interview with the Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet* in February, Hjelm-Wallén said, "I am proud for the sake of Sweden that we could do it, because it is still a big change from what we could imagine doing earlier."

This development marks a turning point, as the Swedish capitalists acknowledge that their government and military forces have to get more involved in big world conflicts and imperialist alliances than ever before in this century.

This change can be clearly seen in the Baltic region — one of the dividing lines between imperialist states and workers states.

The conservative Moderate Party in Sweden has always touted its support for governments of the Baltic countries against Moscow as a weapon in domestic politics against the Social Democrats, who have seemed to adopt a more cautious policy. But in its declaration of foreign policy last February the Social Democratic government said the Baltic countries have "a central place in our security policy."

When Göran Persson took over as the new Social Democratic prime minister in April, his first international stop was Estonia. In June he visited Latvia, and the whole period has been filled by intense diplomatic activity by representatives of the Swedish government. The biggest event was the summit of all the governments around the Baltic sea in Visby, Sweden, at beginning of May. Among the participants were Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and German chancellor Helmut Kohl.

'Law and order' in Baltics

The only lobbying group allowed to address the summit was a delegation of business representatives from the countries in the region. It was led by Peter Wallenberg, head of the most powerful ruling family in Sweden. The first point on their list of demands was "law and order" in the Baltic workers states. "We stress the importance of protection of private property and clear rules on bankruptcies, debt redemption, and so on; and pursuing all laws that strengthen the police, the courts, and other aspects of the judicial system."

As unstable depression conditions force other imperialist powers in Europe to guard their backyards in the workers states, crisis-ridden Swedish capitalism looks to the Baltic countries as a natural outlet for its surplus capital.

Compared to its population, Estonia has received the largest foreign direct investment of all the workers states in Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union. Some 31 percent of the investments are by Swedish capitalists, another 31 percent from Germany, and 25 percent from Finland. U.S. investment in Estonia makes up just 5 percent of the total.

"The way the privatization was done has been decisive for the rapid reforms in Estonia," says Basil Zavoico, representative of the International Monetary Fund in Estonia. "The state companies have been sold to foreigners rather than to 'insiders,' that is, employees or former managers."

The Kreenholm textile mill in Narva is the biggest industry in Estonia and is majority-owned by the Swedish textile company Borås Wäfveri. Workers' wages are less than 10 percent of wage levels in Sweden.

"Workers can no longer afford to eat at the canteen," trade union president Yulia Dmitrijeva told *Svenska Dagbladet*. She de-

scribed how a worker's family has lost rights to health care and possibilities to go on vacation.

The new owners have cut the workforce from 5,600 to 5,000 with plans to lay off another 1,000 workers over the next year. About one quarter of the city's population rely on Kreenholm for a living. Unemployment benefits are available for a maximum six months for Estonian citizens. But only 12,000 out of Narva's population of 77,000 have citizenship. Some 96 percent of the population are Russians.

"As I see it the layoffs could create tensions and difficulties, although it has been rather quiet the last two years," said the mayor of Narva, Raivo Murd.

Swedish investors in the Baltic countries are confronting the same obstacle as all foreign capitalists in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union: the resistance of the workers defending the basic conquests of the proletarian dictatorship. They also realize that they are operating in a likely arena of future conflict between imperialist forces, which are trying to open up the workers states to capitalism and a bureaucratic regime in Russia, that is weakened but still represents a big nuclear power.

Military tensions in region

This conflict is foreshadowed both by the imperialist intervention in Yugoslavia and by Russian opposition to the enlargement of NATO, as well as the permanent tension in the relations between Moscow and the regimes in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The denial of citizenship rights for the large Russian populations by the nationalist bureaucratic regimes in the Baltic countries is used by Moscow to motivate its continued political and military pressure against these countries.

During this century the ruling class in Sweden has always looked with sympathy to all counterrevolutionary attempts against the revolutionary conquests by working people on the eastern shore of the Baltic sea. But they have always refrained from any official military intervention, realizing it would have forced them to be part of one of the big conflicting power blocs.

If the Swedish rulers had intervened on the white side in the revolution in Finland in 1918, it would have made them an ally of German imperialism on its way to lose the first world war. If they had supported the capitalists in Finland in the war against Soviet Union in the winter of 1939-40 at the time of the Stalin-Hitler pact, it would have put them in conflict with German imperialism. And after the Finnish government's defeats in its wars against the Soviet Union in the second world war, the Swedish ruling class had to proclaim its "neutrality" during the cold war to have Moscow to accept Finland as a buffer state — still capitalist but accepting Moscow having veto powers on its foreign policy.

Participation in NATO-led operations is now official Swedish policy. And the Swedish government is actively involved in building up the military forces of the Baltic regimes. Together with Washington, Sweden is the biggest contributor to the Baltic Battalion, trained by Nordic and British officers. This project is part of NATO's "Partnership for Peace" and the common language of command is English. The battal-



ring Moscow from any defensive moves and — if a conflict breaks out — not bear the brunt of it. That's why the rulers of Sweden are pushing for the rapid inclusion of the Baltic governments into both the European Union (EU) and NATO.

This position comes into conflict with the interests of the rulers of other imperialist countries. Washington favors the inclusion of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO — a development that will lead to sharpening conflicts with Moscow and that is opposed by Bonn.

On the other hand, Washington has recently renegotiated its 1990 agreement with Moscow on disarmament of conventional weapons. The new agreement allows the Russian army to increase the number of armored vehicles in the region of Pskov, bordering Estonia and Latvia, from 171 today to 600.

Contrary to the wishes of the Swedish rulers, Wash-

ington is pressuring the governments of Finland and Sweden to give the security guarantees and conclude a defensive pact with the Baltic governments. A report from the California-based Rand Institute argues that Poland be integrated into NATO but the Baltic countries be left outside. It proposes that the governments of Sweden and Finland expand their military support to the Baltic regimes. The governments of both Finland and Sweden have opposed this proposal.

The Swedish government also finds itself in disagreement with the dominant powers inside the European Union. While Bonn opposes the expansion of NATO to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, it favors the inclusion of these governments into the EU. But Bonn is blocking the Swedish demand for a rapid inclusion of the Baltic countries.

These strains on both NATO and the EU will only increase in the coming months.

Debates over NATO, EU membership

The government realizes it has to maneuver inside the framework of the alliances dominated by the big powers, above all Washington. Stockholm's objective is to get as many guarantees for the security of the Baltic states as possible, in hopes of deter-

ing Moscow from any defensive moves and — if a conflict breaks out — not bear the brunt of it. That's why the rulers of Sweden are pushing for the rapid inclusion of the Baltic governments into both the European Union (EU) and NATO.

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Contrary to the wishes of the Swedish rulers, Wash-

for further reading

New International no. 7

- Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq by Jack Barnes
- Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime by Mary-Alice Waters
- Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War by Samad Sharif \$12.00

New International no. 10

- Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War by Jack Barnes
- What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold
- Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution by Mary-Alice Waters
- The Curve of Capitalist Development by Leon Trotsky \$14.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold

The dive on Wall Street this July is a reminder that the 1987 stock market crash signaled a new situation for world capitalism, marked by the onset of depression conditions. Rising class tensions and sharpening interimperialist conflict have once again put the imperialist system on the march toward fascism and war. A renewal of working-class battles is equally inevitable, however, opening revolutionary prospects for a socialist future. In issue no. 10 of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

